

East Coker Society Newsletter



April 2009

Free Issue No 134

Chair: John Sugg	863435	westcountry4cars@tiscali.co.uk
Newsletter Editor: Lesley Lindsay	862868	L.Lindsay@eastcoker.com
Secretary: Sarah Owen	862218	
Treasurer: Keith Helliar	863700	

East Coker Society News

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the East Coker Society will be held in the Dampier Room, East Coker Hall, on Tuesday 19 May 2009 at 7.30pm. All villagers welcome.

COFFEE MORNING

The East Coker Society is holding a Coffee Morning at the Helyar Arms on Friday 24 April 10.00am – 12 noon. We would be very pleased to welcome everyone for coffee, yummy homemade cakes, scones, jam and cream and a chat to one and all.

RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL

We greatly appreciate delivery by e-mail as it saves money on our printing costs so if in future you would like to help by receiving the Newsletter via e-mail, please e-mail L.Lindsay@eastcoker.com with your name and postal address so you can be removed from our delivery lists.

Your e-mail address will be kept entirely private, with no cross-referencing of other people's e-mails.

For those already receiving the Newsletter by e-mail, please e-mail L.Lindsay@eastcoker.com if you change your e-mail address.

A NEW 'MUST-HAVE' ITEM!

The new East Coker Bag is a **'must-have'** item if you live in East Coker! The cotton shopper is available with either long or short handles, and has the East Coker Cockerel on one side. Environmentally friendly, and good for the 'green' consumer! Available from The Store, East Coker, or Sarah Owen 862218

VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY 2009

The 2009 Diary is now at The Store, East Coker, and can be found at the back of the shop on the bottom shelf near the stationery. **Please could village organisations put their forthcoming events in the Diary to avoid the dates clashing.** Thank you.

Village Clubs and Organisations

EAST COKER HALL CHARITABLE TRUST AGM – MONDAY 18 MAY 2009

The Annual General Meeting of the Trust will be held on Monday 18 May 2009 in the Dampier Room of East Coker Hall, Halves Lane, commencing at 7.30pm.

Any organisation wishing to have a representative on the Committee must apply to the Secretary, Mrs H Styles, 21 Mill Close, East Coker BA22 9LF, in writing before the meeting.

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

ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

The East Coker Branch of Action Medical Research is holding a Coffee Morning at 23 Southwoods, Yeovil on Saturday 25 April 2009 from 10am to 12 noon.

There will be cakes, bring-and-buy and other stalls so please come along and join us. Entrance £2 including coffee and biscuits.

Many thanks to all of you who supported our lunch before Christmas with the Rt. Hon. Ann Widdecombe. A lovely day was had by all and we raised £2,617.

Our Cream Tea delivery will this year be on Friday 3 July. If anyone would like a Cream Tea delivered to them or want any further information on any of the above please contact Jane Donnelly on 478409

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Royal British Legion East & West Coker Branch(including surrounding villages) will be holding their Annual Cheese & Wine Evening in the East Coker Village Hall on Friday 17 April at 7.30pm Entrance £5 (inc first glass of wine). Awards and presentations will be made and we hope to have a guest speaker.

The East Coker Branch was formed in 1928 as The Ex-Serviceman's Association and met at the New Inn (now Helyar Arms). In 1931 it became a branch within the British Legion, which has since become The Royal British Legion (RBL). We were joined by West Coker and District in 1987.

The principal aim of the RBL is to provide support to our ex and serving personnel and their dependants. Support is needed as much today as it was in the wars and conflicts that have gone before. Our troops are returning from battle-areas with injuries requiring specialist treatment, dedicated after-care and for others, leaving the security of the services, help and guidance are also needed.

In 2008 the Royal British Legion in Somerset dealt with 1,200 Welfare Cases. Funding required was £35,000. Today we have veterans from the age of 17 to 112 years of age, many of whom need help and assistance but are 'Too Proud' to ask. Let us not forget the dependants of those making the final return. They need our support to assist them through their grieving.

Please help us to provide that much needed care and support to them all.

Thank you. David Holland Chairman East & West Coker Branch

EAST COKER W.I.

East Coker W.I. continues to attract many good speakers to their meetings, which are also being well attended by members of the public. On 30 April we will be having a talk by Mrs Daphne Baker on Mary Anning the fossil pioneer of the Jurassic Coast. On Thursday 25 June we are organising an outing to the Hawk Conservancy Trust at Andover, leaving East Coker Village Hall at 9.30am and returning about 5.30pm. This is a fascinating venue with many demonstrations during the day. Any villagers are welcome to join us and at £16 per person to include transport and entrance. This should prove an enjoyable day out. Anyone interested in joining us please contact me. Our last whist drive will be held on Thursday 16 April at 7.30 at the East Coker Village Hall and recommence Thursday, 17 September.

Joyce Pryor 862816

THE COKER 400 CLUB

Robert Allwood £100; Mrs K Privett £50; Mr J M Phillips £40; Mr D Jenkins £30; Mr A Rees £20; Mrs A Davidge £15; Mrs K Wright £10; Mrs D Wright £10

We are pleased to have sent cheques for £500 to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance for their funds and also the Trustees of the East Coker Almshouses as a further contribution towards the renovation of the end almshouse.

If anyone would like to join the 400 Club the annual subs are £20 (payable quarterly by Banker Order), please contact Mike Weston 862472, Gloria Mead 862384, Mary Ashley 862263 or Arthur Rees 862828.

EAST COKER FLOWER SHOW and WINE FESTIVAL

An advance notice of the photography classes

71 My favourite snapshot 'Ah, how cute'
73 Rust
75 Legs

72 Gateways
74 Craftsmen at work
76 A seaside day (4 photos)

Other New Classes

Floral Art: Floral arrangement to include a figurine. Novice (never having won 1st prize) – arrangement in a basket.

Home Craft: Apple Cake. Chutney (vinegar-proof lid). Four cheese scones.
Crafts: Hand-knitted article. Patchwork item.

We hope that the people of the village will enjoy joining in or coming to support those who have given it a go. Thank you – see you there.

EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

'England' – 23 Apr 2009 – 7:30pm


Anne Bingley hosts this St George's Day evening. Poetry about 'England'
NB – this meeting is a Thursday evening

Brian Patman – '300 Trees' – 26 May 2009 – 7.30pm

'300 Trees' – an evening of poems (and photographic images) inspired by Moscow, its people and traditions, presented by Brian Patman. Brian Patman won the East Coker Poetry competition in 2007 and his masterful judging of our 2008 competition was one of the highlights of our poetry meetings last year.

All meetings are at The Helyar Arms, East Coker, 7.30pm. No membership fee – open to anyone with an interest in poetry.

Contact details – David Cloke 862623 or our website www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk



Live comfortably in your body

Receiving massage regularly will help to relax your whole body and can ease and/or heal certain ailments, such as joint and muscle stiffness/pain, frozen shoulder, backache & sciatica, posture & mobility issues, headaches & migraines, high blood pressure, poor circulation & fluid retention, insomnia/fatigue and other stress related problems. It will also contribute to your general sense of well being and aliveness and can help to release emotions held deeply in the body, relieving anxiety and depression.

I am a qualified massage practitioner trained at the Bristol College of Massage and Bodywork and a member of the Massage Training Institute. I live and work in East Coker. My treatments incorporate a wide range of techniques which will be adapted to your needs at the time. You can expect to be treated with sensitivity and respect at all times in a peaceful environment.

To have an informal chat and/or book an appointment call Rosie on 01935 862767 or 07733 121819. Local home visits can be arranged if necessary.

EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

The Club started the year with a lively talk by Alison Charles entitled 'Butterflies and Flowers of Europe', ably assisted by Nigel who was in charge of slides. Alison took us on a journey through parts of Europe, accompanied by photographs of beautiful scenery, Alpine meadows of spring flowers, orchards with poppies in full bloom, orchids, and butterflies, both common and rare, with a photo of some of them feasting on cow-pats! A thoroughly enjoyable way to pass a cold January evening. In February, Tony Rashley from The Gardens Group gave a taste of spring with his talk on 'Spring Colour and Interest in the Garden'. Tony brought a varied selection of spring plants, including snowdrops, forsythia and primroses as well as various prunus and salix, with suggestions on how to use them to best effect and care for them. This was followed in March by Paul Wells' talk on 'Strawbale Buildings', during which he explained the construction process of and the sustainable and environmental benefits of such buildings. Garden Club members who attended this talk now know how to build their garden sheds and follies from straw bales. Paul brought with him photos of various straw buildings, some of which are quite substantial, and included two storey houses.

The programme for the next four months includes a charity evening when Anne Swithinbank, well-known for her appearances on BBC programmes such as Gardeners' Question Time, will give a talk on 'My Devon Garden'. The proceeds from this event will go to the Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance and to the fund for the refurbishment of the East Coker Pavilion. We do hope that many of you will support this evening. Tickets, £10 for non-members, are available from Stan Shayler (420291), Helen Styles (862447) and the East Coker Stores.

The programme for the next four months is as follows:

9 April	'Victorian Garden Design' (Speaker Marion Emery)
5-8 May	Annual four day Garden Club Holiday to Sussex
14 May	'My Devon Garden' (Speaker Anne Swithinbank)
11 June	'Owls R Us'
25 June	Evening visit and tour of Wells Palace Gardens, followed by supper
9 July	'Wild Flowers to and from the Garden' (Speaker C Cornell)

Monthly meetings are held in the East Coker Hall on the second Thursday of the month, commencing at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome. For further information, please contact Catherine Denney, Honorary Secretary (862294), or Stan Shayler, Honorary Treasurer (420291).

Copperfields Services

Property Maintenance

Pete Clarke

01935 432215

07756 839225

Extensions

Conversions

Painting & Decorating

Garden Landscaping

No job too small

Reliable Local Family Business

EAST COKER CRICKET CLUB

May 2009 sees the return of weekend village cricket to East Coker! The team is entered in the Somerset Cricket League and will play its home matches on Saturday afternoons at Long Furlong Lane. The committee consists of several founders of East Coker Cockerels Football Club and our aim is to establish a Club Junior Section within the next couple of years.

Everyone is welcome at the Club – we are looking for new players, umpires, sponsors and spectators! Please visit our website at www.eccricket.org.uk or call Martin Kearvell on 413979 or Paul Morton on 475286

Young People

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

Summer Jumble Sale: Saturday 13 June, East Coker Village Hall from 2.00pm. Last year we experienced problems with disposing of the remaining jumble at the end of the sale. Therefore this year we will be holding just one Jumble Sale and request that people only provide good quality jumble for this fund raiser.

REMEMBER WE WILL STILL COLLECT. Contact Max Bugler 862186. Thank you for your continued support.

The highest award within the Scout Movement that can be gained as a Scout moves through the sections – Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers and Scout Network is the Queen's Scout Award. Our Group is proud to announce that Simon Glover has gained his award for which he worked hard over several years including a 50-mile hike, helping within the Group and a community project. This award ranks alongside the Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award and our congratulations go to Simon.

The Beavers and Cubs had an excellent day at Huish Woods Campsite (just this side of Taunton) in January. They all did caving, an assault course with a very muddy slide, orienteering and cooked sausages and marshmallows over an open fire. The Beavers are going back in May to sleep-over.

Our membership numbers and leader numbers are growing well at the moment so a hectic programme of events and camps will be undertaken through to the summer holidays.

Newspaper Collections: Sat 25 April Sat 30 May Sat 27 June

Please bring all your old newspapers to Honeysuckle Cottage (outside the School) by 10.30. This is an excellent way of supporting us and raises funds for equipment

EAST COKER PLAYGROUP

After a hard winter, including a 'proper' amount of snow, it felt good to place a booking for the Pavilion for the playgroup Summer Fair. Summer Fair – it will soon be upon us. Last week the children were outside playing; thoroughly enjoying the space to play. All the elements of fun were available, sand, building blocks, ride-on toys, pushchairs and prams, the easel for painting, and playdoh. This names but a few of the play opportunities. On venturing inside the playroom, I found children playing with construction toys, looking at books together, drawing and dressing up. One child dashed in and asked for a tray from the play kitchen to take outside for 'the cakes'. A tray was found and the child went happily outside – I did not get offered a cake but I am sure that was just an oversight!

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 encouragement between staff and children, partnership with parents, teaching, management and the emphasis on fun.

Children can join us from the age of 2½ and Nursery Education Funding is available from the funding period after the third birthday. We are open during term time every weekday morning, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons and offer optional lunch cover for children who like to bring a packed lunch. The playgroup offer extended opening hours, subject to demand (a breakfast club and 'afterschool' club) – please contact Kay Strode if you would like more information on this exciting opportunity on your doorstep.

For more information and to put your child/children on the waiting list please contact Kay Strode on 07798 812540 or after 6.00pm on 872126.

As mentioned above our Summer Fair is planned for June, the date to be confirmed. We would love to see you. This annual event is held at the Pavilion, Long Furlong Lane in the afternoon. There will be a variety of stalls, refreshments, cake stall and a raffle. All this activity takes place during the afternoon and hopefully our booking for fine weather will hold.

The Playgroup also has an annual Craft Fair; please contact the group if you are interested in having a stall at our next Craft Fair in November 2009.

Cake Sale

The sale of cakes to raise money for FAB, the Frenchay After Burns Club was held a few weeks ago. The girls who organised it raised the excellent total of £115.51. A fantastic effort and many thanks for all the donated cakes and generous prices paid.

Science Week

The children enjoyed a succession of visitors and activities which showed what an exciting subject science can be. There was everything from a planetarium to smoking ice to owls and hedgehogs in the classrooms. We are very grateful to all the parents who were able to give their time and share their knowledge and expertise in so many interesting and varied ways. Many thanks go to Mrs Frosdick, our science co-ordinator, who organised the week.

Imagine You Can

Several of our children took part in a federation activity on Saturday. They were part of a musical performance at Huish Park before the Yeovil Town game. They sang and danced through a medley of songs from Grease. The performance was excellent, especially when you consider that they had only rehearsed for four after-school sessions in the week before. Well done!

Sports

I am pleased to tell you that the football season has seen our teams doing well in their leagues. Still to be confirmed, but we think that both the year 5,6 team and the year 3,4 team will finish top of their leagues. Well done to them and the coaching team.

Twelve of our children had the opportunity to take part in an indoor athletics session at Preston School. They had a busy but enjoyable session taking part in a rotation of running, throwing and jumping events.

Trees

Class 4 recently visited the Magdalen Project, an environmental centre, near Winsham. They enjoyed exploring the woods and seeing the animals, but the main purpose of the visit was to plant out the trees which we had been nurturing in our tree nursery since last year. Thankfully, the 25 oaks and ash survived well and are now safely growing in woodland where they will thrive for many years to come.

Summer Fair – Friday 19 June 2009

Richard Powell, Head Teacher

J. H. Norman & Sons

**103 West Coker Road
Yeovil, Somerset
BA20 2JF
01935 476527
07734 867672**

**Motor Engineers
MOT Testing
Service & Repairs
Car Sales**

The Churches

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH



Easter Craft Activity for Children for ages 5 years+

Saturday 10 April at St Michael's 10.00am – 12.30pm. Free entry with soft drinks and biscuit refreshments. All welcome – with or without parents! Contact 850256

Services

Palm Sunday 5 April – 8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Family Eucharist 6.00pm Evensong

Holy Thursday 9 April – 6.30pm The Last Supper and Silence

Good Friday 10 April – 10.00am Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday 11 April – 6.30pm Lighting of the New Fire and Baptismal Vows

Easter Sunday 12 April – 8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Family Eucharist 2.30pm Egg Rolling and Games At Gregg's Riding Stables

Rogation Sunday 17 May – 10.00am Service and Procession – ending at the Vicarage for refreshments.

Ascension Day Thursday 21 May – 6.30pm – Eucharist

Ascension Sunday 24 May – Family Service

Pentecost/Whit Sunday 31 May – 10.00am Sung Eucharist, 6.00pm Evensong.

Trinity Sunday 7 June – 8.00am Holy Communion, 10.00am Family Eucharist

AGM Wednesday 15 April Dampier Room 7.30pm

The Diocesan Celebration of 1100 Years will be held at Glastonbury, Saturday 4 July

Open Gardens

The gardens of East Coker will be open from 11.00am – 5.00pm on Saturday 23 May and Sunday 24 May.

Donations to visit the gardens would be very welcome and these will be divided between the East Coker Almshouses and the Vicarage Fund.

Spring Plant Sale

This will be held at the Vicarage on Saturday 23 May 10.00am.

East Coker Fête

Saturday 11 July at the Vicarage at 2.00pm. All the usual stalls, plus a Dog Show, Classic Cars and hopefully a Pony Class.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH CLOSWORTH

Closworth Family Services

Good Friday 10 April – We shall be holding our usual 'All Ages Service'. We shall be having a reading, prayers, hymns and a short talk, during which one of the older children will help the younger ones make Crosses. (Perhaps children could bring 'child-friendly' scissors).

Easter Sunday 12 April – Our usual Easter Day Family Service with the children taking part. This will be followed by coffee and an Easter-egg Hunt.

Rogation Sunday 17 May – We shall go outside and ask God's Blessing on the crops and animals and combine it with a Pet Service so bring along your pets.

Special Advance Notice – Archdeacon Nicola Sullivan is coming to the service on 18 October – more details later.

For further details, please contact me. Monica 862834

Lawrence Electricals



Domestic / Commercial / Security
(inc. Alarms / CCTV)

All Electrical Work Undertaken
From Extra Sockets / Lights To Full Rewires

Tel: 01935 891090

Mobile: 07889 511576

Lawrence Dolan

City & Guilds Accredited

PART P Registered for Building Regulations

Free Estimates

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SUTTON BINGHAM

Coffee Morning 29 May – Helyar Arms 10.00am – 12 noon In aid of the Church Roof Fund.

Following on from the Coffee Morning, the Helyar Arms will be offering a range of lunches for £5

Church Roof

A scheme for sponsoring a tile, or any quantity, at £20 each, as special tiles are needed, is proving helpful. Forms for this exercise are obtainable from the Churchwardens (details below), or at the church.

Services

Good Friday 10 April – Litany
Sunday 19 April – **NO SERVICE**
Sunday 3 May 9.00am
Sunday 7 June 9.00am
Sunday 5 July 9.00am

Easter Sunday 12 April – 11.30am
Sunday 17 May 11.30am
Sunday 22 June 11.30am
Sunday 19 July 11.30am

AGM Monday 27 April at the Vicarage at 7.00pm

Churchwardens Mrs Carol Blackmore 862192 Mr Antony Denning 474294

BIBLE MID-WEEK MEETINGS 2009

The Bible Mid-Week meets on the third Wednesday of every month in East Coker Village Hall. We have been meeting for eight years now, a gathering of people from various churches, some quite a distance from the village, but joined together by the common conviction that 'faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the word of Christ' (Romans 10:17). The central part of our meetings is therefore the sermon.

Our sermon series tend to alternate between Old and New Testaments and in each series we try to study a complete book of the Bible so that we can grasp its full meaning.

Our meetings start at 7.00pm and end at 8.00pm after which there are refreshments for those who wish them. Everyone is welcome even if it is just for a 'taster'!

In April we shall complete our series on Ruth, and from May to November we shall be doing a series on the book of James.

For further details, contact Roy Hodder 862519 or Edward Armistead 862785

EAST COKER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, BURTON LANE

Coffee Stop The Hall is open every Wednesday from 11.00am until 1.00pm for coffee and tea. All are 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.

Weekly Meetings 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays – 11.00am Worship Service (incorporating Communion).
2nd Sunday – 11.00am Family Service

Alpha We are commencing an Alpha Course in May with an Alpha Supper on Tuesday 21 April. The Supper is a 'trial run' for those who aren't sure just what Alpha is all about – If you don't like what you see, you don't have to come again (and I can assure you that I won't be chasing you!). Alpha is an introduction to the Christian faith, running over a ten-week period, and comprises a meal, a DVD and a discussion time each evening. Anyone interested please contact Kevin on one of the numbers or email address below.

Walking Group We shall be recommencing our walking group after Easter. To be fair the current group is more of a ramble than a walk but if there are enough people interested there is no reason why we should not have both a Walking Group and a Rambling Group. Give Kevin a call if you are interested in either.

Other services as announced. **All** are welcome to **all** of our services. 'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life', John's Gospel, chapter 3, verse 16 – The Gospel in a nutshell.

Kevin Chapman is available in the village each Tuesday and Wednesday. He can be contacted on 0781 2726853 OR 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.

Village News

FLOWER ARRANGING

A Spring Workshop starting soon.

For beginners and those wishing to refresh their style and knowledge, using garden flowers – where possible

Tel Sue Mason 891400

WESSEX MORRIS MEN

The Wessex Morris Men dance at Cerne Abbas at dawn on May Day, in the Trendle above the Cerne Giant. We then process from the foot of the hill down into the centre of the village where we dance until 7:30am and then into the pub for breakfast, beer, music and singing. We've been known to stay there until lunchtime!

Closer to home, we will be dancing at The Helyar Arms again this year at 7.30pm on 6 July. An extended stop this year as we were so well received last year, then on to The Royal George, West Coker from 8.30pm.

Paul Chesterman

EAST COKER MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

The year has started with events for The Meningitis Trust and the Macular Disease Society, each raising more than £350.

We now have a full programme of events for the rest of 2009 and have already received enquiries from interested charities for 2010. We look forward to your continuing support for this worthwhile event.

We would also like to say a big thank you to the Helyar Arms for providing the venue, the coffee and, best of all, the scones! Thank you also to everybody who has contributed cakes and to John Burton and Sons for their assistance in sign-writing the eye-catching notice board.

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313 and Penny Marpole 863055

www.eastcoker.com

PLANT SALE – For Childrens' Hospice South West

This year we will be holding our Annual Plant Sale on Sunday 17 May 2009 between 10.00am and 2.00pm at Weavers Lodge, East Coker. Profits will be going to The Children's Hospice South West, Charlton Farm, Bristol.

There will, hopefully, be some different plants to last year, but also the old favourites of bedding plants and perennials.

Parking is extremely limited and we ask that you park on the road by the school and there will be signs directing you to the sale. I have a willing husband with wheelbarrow to assist you to your car, with plants of course! There will also be a raffle at 50p a ticket.

If you have any seedlings that you would like to donate and don't have time to prick out please let me know and I will gladly collect.

Hope to see you there.

Christine and Glenn Seymour 863961.

WESTLAKE SURGERY

As in previous years, the surgery will be closed for part of one morning each month for staff training. On these mornings, there are none of the usual surgeries but a locum doctor is available to see anyone needing an appointment.

The surgery is open from 8.30am – 11.00am as usual and then closes completely until 1.30pm. If a medical emergency occurs during that time then patients can either dial 999 or the surgery can be contacted on 07875750811. The surgery opens again as usual from 1.30pm.

The dates of the training days in 2009 are

Friday 24 April	Friday 15 May	Friday 26 June	Friday 17 July
Friday 18 September	Friday 23 October	Friday 27 November	

THE VILLAGE STORE

The doom and gloom of the credit crunch seems to be affecting us all – but what can we at East Coker Village Store do to help? Here are a few reasons why it makes sense to shop with us:

1. Don't waste money on petrol driving to a supermarket when you can take a nice stroll in the spring sunshine to our store.
2. We have introduced a range of budget items and have had good feedback on their value for money.
3. If you spend over £20 in one transaction (some exclusions apply e.g. cigarettes and mobile phone top-ups) you will receive a £1 off voucher for your next visit.
4. People expect us to be expensive because we are a convenience store but Paul prides himself on competing with supermarket prices as much as possible.
5. By supporting the Village Store you are ensuring its survival and living in a village with amenities such as a shop is much more desirable when it comes to property prices.
6. More often than not you meet someone you know and perhaps haven't seen for a while and can catch up on village events.

Finally we are looking at producing a stock list so you can ring or email an order and we will get it ready for you to collect when it is convenient for you. Please let us know if this is something you would be interested in. Help us to help you!

Paul, Vicky, Emmalia and Lillia Moorhouse

BULK HEATING-OIL PURCHASE.

Several people followed up the flyer from Pearce Energy which came round the village about a bulk oil purchase and five made up an order.

One person co-ordinates the order and sends a list of names, addresses and quantities to the oil company. The tanker then only has to make one visit to the village, saving fuel and the driver's time and so reducing the price. The greater the overall quantity, the less the price per litre. As an example, at the time of arranging our order, a group of eleven people in Chetnole made a combined order of 10,000 litres and paid 33p per litre when 1000 litres would have cost 35.5p and 500 litres 36.5p, giving savings of 7% and 9.6%.

The company invoices each person individually in the normal way. Everyone pays the same price per litre regardless of the amount they have. It is quite acceptable to say 'So many litres or fill the tank'.

I would be happy to co-ordinate orders and answer any questions. Please contact me, preferably by email pauleddwards@waitrose.com or 864413. Email will make it much easier to circulate information and I will keep addresses confidential. The company say that mid-August would be the time for a good price but we could do an order any-time.

Paul Edwards

EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL.

Matthew Tailby is our new **PCSO**. East Coker is now (at last!) served by Yeovil Police Station, rather than Crewkerne, which has already improved response time for 999 calls.

Vandals caused serious damage to the windows at the Pavilion early in March. The police were quick to respond and held five youths – some from East Coker. Deliberate, out-of-control behaviour such as this is a sad side of our community. However, as we now move to the final stages of completing the refurbishment of the Pavilion, we look forward to offering teams a better standard of sports' facilities.

A new adult **Cricket Team** will be playing on Saturday afternoons and would welcome interested players and umpires. Details: **Parish Clerk: 862062** who will pass on enquiries.

South Somerset District Council have approved a grant of £5,500 to complete this project, for which we are most grateful. Special thanks to architect, Chris Thornton, who has worked with the planners and Lynda Pincombe from SSDC, who presented our case.

Rights of Ways: The path through Drakes Meadow from Mill Lane to Halves Lane is not a designated right of way. Horses and motor-cycles are prohibited from using this route. Please respect this. The Parish Map is available (free) from the village shop, the Parish Clerk or any Parish Councillor. Rights of Ways are clearly marked – if you think there is a problem with any route please inform one of the above.

With the spring turnout of cattle and lambing well ahead, dogs should be under very close control at all times, and please do not deviate from the designated paths. The usual plea regarding the removal of your dog dirt wherever it happens to be goes out to all dog owners.

Litter-Picking Day was organized recently, but some areas were not covered. It would be most helpful if you could take a carrier bag with you when you go for a walk and litter pick (especially) road verges.

Police have been informed of the proliferation of unlicensed mini motorbikes and similar machines which are trespassing on farmland and causing a nuisance in the area.

The death of longstanding Parish and District Councillor, Alan Cornelius was reported earlier this year. He devoted a major part of his life to the wellbeing of East Coker and will be remembered for his loyalty and common sense approach to local matters.

SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN'S AWARDS FOR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Although this was presented last October to Sally Jackson, it is never too late to put good news in the Newsletter. Sally was awarded this prize for her dedication to the local life of East Coker at Glastonbury Town Hall by Chairman of Somerset County Council, Cllr Alan Gloak. She was presented with an engraved crystal clock and a certificate.

THE HELYAR ARMS

Congratulations! to Matt and Ben. At the Pub Chef Awards Ben won Pub Chef of the Year 2009 and Matt Best Bar Meal of the year 2009. These are national awards organised by the Morning Advertiser.

Every Wednesday 'Pie Day' – Homemade Pies £6.95. Every Monday 'Steak Night' – 2 steaks £20

The Skittle Alley is available for booking, please ring for availability and prices.

Quiz Night

Held on the last Sunday of every month. Four persons per team at £5 per team. Good fun for everyone

NOTES FROM THE OBSERVATORY

Vernal Equinox, 20 March 2009.

What a relief the middle weeks of March have been, with spring-like days after a long cold winter. The past winter was reputed to be the coldest for several decades. How ironic that the coldest spell for many years coincided with fuel prices being at their maximum.

The first week of January was desperately cold. The temperature remained below freezing point all day on Tuesday 6 January after several days of severe frosts. That night was the coldest of the winter when the temperature fell to minus 7.7C (18.1F). There have been sixteen mornings of frost so far this year. Yet there have been compensations. A hard frost coupled with high moisture in the atmosphere gave a few early hours of Fairyland in the village on 9 January when hoar frost or rime outlined every twig, leaf and all the many spiders' webs. Alas, the rising sun soon turned the sight into common day; the day was another day of below freezing point.

The village was spared the heavy snowfalls of further west yet we had five inches of snow on 3 February and another fall of very wet snow on 5 February which damaged evergreen shrubs and trees. Rainfall for the period has been 193.3mm (7.61ins).

The reputation of Candlemas Day as an indicator of the end of winter was dented this year. 2 February was a dull day with rain and sleet. According to legend this weather should indicate that winter is over. Yet the following week had snow with many cold frosty days to follow.

Despite the weather, some of Nature's events were on time. Five frogs appeared in my small pond on 18 February, while small early daffodils flowered in the coldest of February days, particularly Jack Snipe, Tete a Tete and Peeping Tom varieties. Yet the main daffodil display was about three weeks late this year. A few primroses flowered in sheltered spots on 24 January along with the first crocuses. Celandines, always a bright indicator of Spring, did not flower until 14 March, after some glorious spring weather.

Birdsong has been sparse so far this year. Apart from the robin's year-round song, only collared doves and great tits have been calling regularly. Collared doves began their monotonous call on 5 February. A pair of collared doves harassed and sent off a magpie that was getting too close for their comfort. Some ground feeders are nervous when a different food is put out for them. Blackbirds seem to like small food and view large pieces with extreme suspicion. They approach a large piece of bread with great care, taking a peck and then hastily retreating, only to return when all is well. As Lady Macbeth said...

"Letting 'I dare not' wait upon 'I would,'
Like the poor cat i' the adage"

I had a report of a Red Admiral flying on 1 March. As this species is not an over-winterer this early date is surprising. Perhaps it made an early flight from a cold continent. Other butterflies appeared in the warm sunny weather of mid March. A deep-yellow Brimstone appeared on the 15 March when the temperature was 11.3C (52.3F) to be followed a few days later by a large Peacock and a female Orange Tip. A bumble bee flew on 14 March.

The night sky is not particularly interesting this spring. Alas, when the new comet Lulin, said to be bright green, was nearest to Earth we had a week of very cloudy skies and thus the comet was missed. Saturn will be a bright object in the southern sky, slowly moving westwards as the months go by. The heavenly twins, Castor and Pollux are high in the south-west at the moment with the bright star Procyon lies just below the Heavenly Twins. Another bright star, Arcturus, can be seen in the south-east.

Francis Cloke. 862496

EAST COKER VILLAGE QUIZ

The fourth annual Village Quiz was held in East Coker Village Hall on 14 March. Twenty teams representing most village societies and groups competed for the prestigious Cockerel Trophy.

This year's winners were 'East Coker School-not-the-Teachers', with the St. Michael's Church team a close runner-up by only one point after ten rounds of questions.

The proceeds from this year's quiz were £910 and this goes to The Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, the nominated charity for this year.

What a brilliant result! Many thanks to all who attended. We look forward to seeing you at next year's quiz on 13 March 2010.

Cherry Sowerbutts.

HATE SEWING?

LET ME PROFESSIONALLY REPAIR ALL YOUR PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD SEWING ITEMS AT VERY REASONABLE PRICES!

(Special 24 hour service available)

SKIRTS/TROUSERS ALTERED – ZIPS/ELASTIC REPLACED

WAISTBANDS RE-SIZED, INVISIBLE MENDING, PATCHES, ETC

(But sorry! No dressmaking or tailoring – we do what we are good at – repairs!)

CALL CAROL ON 01935 862741 FOR A QUOTE

LOCALLY RECOMMENDED – QUALITY WORK AT LOW PRICES

Mon – Fri: 7am – 4.30pm:

Saturday: by appt only

A BIG THANK YOU.....

.....to all those who helped, contributed and came to the Coffee Morning at the Helyar Arms in aid of Macular Disease. It was particularly good that Peter Allen, from Social Services for the Visually Impaired, was able to chat with David Morris, the fund-raiser from the Society who spoke and brought publicity material. I've since received a nice letter, dated 3 March, from him saying:-

Dear Sara,

It was very nice to meet you last Friday at the Coffee Morning at the Helyar Arms. It was so kind of you to put us forward to receive the proceeds of the event. Can you please pass on our grateful thanks to all the helpers for their hard work.

The total amount raised was £357.80. I have written to Matt at the pub and sent them a certificate to display in the bar.

Once again our grateful thanks

David Morris Events and Appeal Fundraiser Macular Disease

Sally Jackson (Sara)

FOLK SOUTH WEST

Folk South West, is a Music Development Charity based in Montacute.

Fund-raising Concerts take place in East Coker Village Hall from 7.30pm. Dates are as follows

10 April – Tom and Barbara Brown in performance

15 May – Ceilidh with Dyer Cummings

12 June – Concert with Martyn Wyndham-Read

Emily Antell

SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY

The mobile library visiting times and dates for the stops in 2009 are:

East Coker

Helyar Arms	11.45am – 12 noon	North Coker Bus Shelter	12.05pm – 12.25pm
Meadow View	12.30pm – 12.50pm	Maudslay Fields	12.55pm – 13.15pm

Sutton Bingham	Bower Farm	13.25pm – 13.45pm
-----------------------	------------	-------------------

Dates: 21 April; 7 May; 28 May; 18 June; 9 July; 30 July; 20 August

CCM ELECTRICS LTD

Electrical Contractor
Domestic, Commercial and Industrial

- All Types of Work Considered
- 24 Hour Call Out • All Areas Covered
- Building Regulations Part P Compliant
- Fully Qualified and Insured
- Testing & Inspection • No Job Too Small
- Free Estimates
- Experience in Eco Friendly Systems
- Underfloor Heating



Portable Appliance Testing from £1.39 per item

All Works Guaranteed - Competitive Rates

For a FREE Estimate Contact:
Crispian Macpherson
Freephone: 0800 1182521
Mobile: 07976 855186
Fax: 01935 864234

Mayfair Cottage, East Coker, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 9LQ

NEXT ISSUE

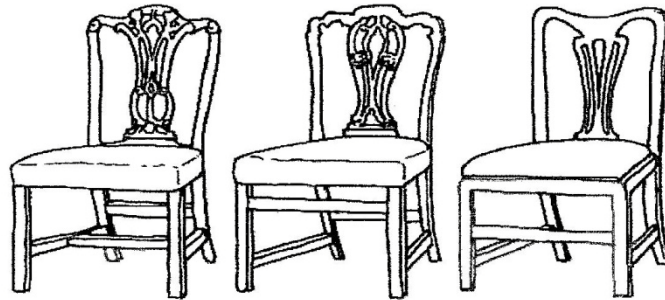
The next issue of the Newsletter will be in July 2009. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or e-mail L.Lindsay@eastcoker.com or to The Store, East Coker by **Wednesday 24 June 2009**.

----- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂ ----- ✂ -----

VILLAGE DIARY April 2009 - July 2009

Sat 11 April	Children's Easter Activity	St. Michael's Church	10.00am – 12 noon
Wed 15 April	St. Michael's AGM	Dampier Room	7.30pm
Thurs 16 April	W I – Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 16 April	RBL Cheese & Wine	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Tues 21 April	Library		
Thurs 23 April	Poetry Group 'England'	The Helyar Arms	7.30pm
Fri 24 April	Coffee Morning – East Coker Society	The Helyar Arms	10.00am – 12 noon
Sat 25 April	Action Medical Research - Coffee Morning	23 Southwoods Yeovil	10.00am – 12 noon
Sat 25 April	Scouts' Newspaper Collection	Near the School	9.00am - 10.30am
Mon 27 April	All Saints' Sutton Bingham AGM	The Vicarage	7.00pm
5 – 8 May	Gardening Club – Holiday in Sussex		
Wed 6 May	Wine Club – 'My Glass is Half Full'	East Coker Hall	8.00pm
Thurs 7 May	Library		
Thurs 14 May	Gardening Club – Anne Swithenbank	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sun 17 May	Plant Sale	Weaver's Lodge	10.00am – 2.00pm
Tues 19 May	East Coker Society – AGM	Dampier Room	7.30pm
Sat 23 May	Plant Sale	The Vicarage	10.00am – 12 noon
Sat 23 May	Open Gardens		11.00am – 5.00pm
Sun 24 May	Open Gardens		11.00am – 5.00pm
Tues 26 May	Poetry Group '300 Trees'	The Helyar Arms	7.30pm
Thurs 28 May	Library		
Fri 29 May	Coffee Morning – Sutton Bingham	The Helyar Arms	10.00am – 12 noon
Sat 30 May	Scouts' Newspaper Collection	Near the School	9.00am – 10.30am
Thurs 11 June	Gardening Club – 'Owls R Us'	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 13 June	Scouts Jumble Sale	East Coker Hall	2.00pm
Thurs 18 June	Library		
Fri 19 June	East Coker School – Summer Fair	East Coker School	
Wed 24 June	Last date for copy for July Newsletter		
Thurs 25 June	Gardening Club – Wells Palace Garden		
Fri 26 June	Coffee Morning – Yeovil Heartbeat	The Helyar Arms	10.00am – 12 noon
Sat 27 June	Scout' Newspaper Collection	Near the School	9.00am – 10.30am
Fri 3 July	Action Medical Research – Cream Teas		
Mon 6 July	Wessex Morris Men	The Helyar Arms	7.30pm
Thurs 9 July	Gardening Club – Wildflower Gardening	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Thurs 9 July	Library		
Sat 11 July	East Coker Fête	The Vicarage	2.00pm

KEN MARSH u p h o l s t e r y



**ANTIQUE & MODERN FURNITURE
RE-UPHOLSTERED BY SKILLED CRAFTSMEN**

REPAIRS & RE-POLISHING

ALL KINDS OF SOFT FURNISHINGS MADE

Extensive choice of quality fabrics available

Free estimates & home appointments

Items collected & delivered in our own van

**Telephone EAST COKER 01935 862907
or mobile 07790 759162**