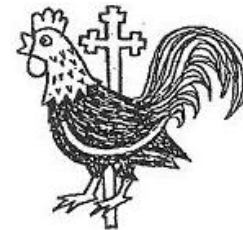


East Coker Society Newsletter



APRIL 2010

Free Issue No 138

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|-----------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|
| 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 on Tuesday 18 May 2010 at 7.30 pm in the Dampier Room of East Coker Village Hall. All villagers are welcome to attend.

LITTER

East Coker is admired by visitors from both home and abroad. We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful village. Some people already help with litter picking. We can all help by clearing the areas close to our own homes or on our walks around the village.

MORE EMAILS PLEASE!

Distribution of the newsletter by e-mail

At the Society's recent AGM the current extremely low number of residents who opt to receive the Newsletter by this means was discussed and the Committee felt it opportune to ask again for those villagers with computers to advise Lesley Lindsay of their e-mail address in order that the considerable cost of printing hard copies can be substantially reduced. It will also ease the occasional difficulties over manual distribution which arises through illness and holidays etc.

We have roughly 800 households in the village, yet only 169 have taken up the e-mail option. In asking for villagers co-operation it is stressed that:

- a) Individuals' e-mail addresses are secure and will not be disclosed to any other party.
- b) All villagers who wish to continue to receive hard copies of the Newsletter can continue to enjoy this option.
- c) Please remember many e-mail recipients do not print the whole document but only the pages that interest them, particularly the all important calendar of events.

VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY 2010

The 2010 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

THE COKER 400 CLUB

The winners of the March draw: £100 Mrs O Sharman; £50 Mrs M Field; £40 Mr A Davidge; £30 Mrs Mickey Hall; £20 Sarah Owen; £15 Mrs R Waite; £10 Lady Vickers; £10 Mr D Jenkins.

If anyone would like to join the 400 Club, the annual subscription is £20 (payable quarterly by Bankers Order), please contact Mike Weston 862472, Gloria Mead 862364, Mary Ashley 862263 or Arthur Rees 862828

EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Branch will be holding their Annual Cheese & Wine Evening on Friday 23 April at 7.30pm in the East Coker Village Hall. Tickets on the door will be £5.00 to include food and first glass of wine/soft drink. We hope all members and friends will be able to attend this popular event. The evening will be particularly special, as we will be making a presentation to Sue Hounsell our Poppy Appeal Organiser, who is retiring this year, after fundraising for the appeal for many years. The money Sue and her loyal band of helpers raise helps us to assist not only our elderly ex-service personnel/dependants but also helps us to provide assistance to serving personnel and their families. The losses of personnel are well publicised and so they should be. Less publicised are the injury statistics. In 2009 over 1300 personnel were evacuated by air, the figure for 2010 is already over 200. The RBL is foremost in providing long-term support for these personnel and their families. Please join us in providing this support by: 1. attending our events. 2. supporting the Poppy Appeal. 3. Better still why not become a branch member of The Royal British Legion for just £11.00 a year. You do not have to be an ex-serviceman/woman to join. You will become a proud member of the largest charity in the country, which has been providing help and comfort to our service personnel and their families since 1921 and will continue to do so for many years to come. Next year the RBL celebrates its 90th anniversary and the branch its 80th. Please join us and become part of these historic events. The branch has received a donation of £250 from Doreen Bates who recently held a 'Pampered Chef' party. It really is heart warming to live in such a caring community. Thank you Doreen.

A note for the diary, the Branch Coffee Morning will take place in East Coker Village Hall on Saturday 23 October 10.00am – 12 noon.

Chairman David Holland 862782; Secretary Marilyn Smith 863944; Membership Caroline Field 863271

Poppy Appeal

Once again the news from the appeal is very good, with a figure of £6000, which is well up on last year's figure and is the largest total during my reign as Poppy Appeal organiser. This is very apt as I am not going to stand again this year. This decision has not been taken lightly; in fact it has been postponed three times. However, circumstances now dictate that I really must look at the dynamics of trying to do a job from a distance. I have always said I could not have continued without the help of Barry or my 'village teams' who have been fantastic and supported me for the years that I have been organiser but even with this help I feel the time has come to hand over the job. As you know I took over from Betty Drake, and then took on Janet Cuff's round and even if I say so myself I think I have done them both proud.

During this year's appeal the question of Help for Heroes has arisen quite a few times, and I feel there is some confusion with people thinking this charity is part of the Poppy Appeal. Help for Heroes has been set up to provide specific help for returning troops, whereas the Poppy Appeal deals with the general welfare of all serving or ex-serving forces personnel and it must be made clear that the two are in no way connected.

I also feel that it must be publicised more widely that anyone can join the RBL. It is not exclusively for ex or serving forces personnel. Anyone interested in becoming a member, please contact Marilyn 863944.

Finally as usual I would like to thank all my collectors who carried on rain or shine, and all who gave so generously year after year, and in doing so have made this job such a pleasure.

Sue Hounsell

EAST COKER HALL CHARITABLE TRUST

Notice of AGM to be held on Monday 26 April 2010

The Annual General Meeting of the Trust will be held on Monday 26 April 2010 in the Dampier Room of East Coker Hall, Halves Lane, commencing at 7.30pm.

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

Applications should be submitted at least one week before the meeting.

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

EAST COKER ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

Our popular Cream Tea Promotion will take place again this year on 25 June. If anyone would like a delicious Cream Tea with Strawberry's delivered to their home that day please contact either Angie Mead on 862972 or Barb Raison 862553.

We are doing a new event this year for the little ones – it will be called 'Walk for Tiny Lives' and will take place at 11.00am on Saturday 10 July at the Pavilion

The aim is for the little ones to walk around the recreation field and finish up with a picnic at the pavilion. The sponsorship money they get will all go to our Touching Tiny Lives Appeal to find answers to premature births. Please contact Jane Donnelly on 478409 for further details.

A date for your diary we will be holding our Xmas Shopping Event again this year at the East Coker Village Hall on Thursday 4 November – more details to follow in due course.

Jane Donnelly

EAST COKER VILLAGE QUIZ 2010

The Fifth Annual Village Quiz was held in East Coker Village Hall on 13 March. Twenty teams of eight competed in an evening of questions which tested their knowledge on subjects ranging from 2009 News items to Birds, Beasts and Creepy Crawlies and Mister Men. In the interval an excellent fish-and-chip supper was enjoyed by all.

This year's quiz was won by the Action Medical Research team with the Scouts as runners-up, closely followed by the Poetry Group.

A good selection of prizes was generously donated for the raffle which was well supported and contributed strongly to the overall proceeds for the event which came to a record total of £1019. This will be given to the charity nominated by last year's winners – East Coker School PTFA Playground Development Fund.

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

Next year's quiz will be on 12 March 2011.

Martyn and Cherry Sowerbutts 863313

EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

Forthcoming events

Tuesday 6 April – The Poetry of Sylvia Townsend Warner

Described as witty and original, the work of Sylvia Townsend Warner has been having a revival in recent years. Although known primarily as a writer of novels and short stories, her poetry also attracted a lot of attention. Her first book of poetry was published in 1925 and was followed by three more collections over the years. She became a committed Communist in the 1930's and lived for many years with her partner Valentine Ackland near Maiden Newton in Dorset. She died on 1 May 1978, aged eighty-four.

Tuesday 25 May – Rohan McCullough

Rohan McCullough began her acting career in the original cast of the musical *Hair* and Jean-Louis Barrault's *Rabelais*. Her film appearances include Derek Jarman's *War Requiem* and David Hare's *Strapless*. She has given poetry recitals with Sir Derek Jacobi, Edward Fox, and John Julius Norwich and she regularly appeared with the late Sir John Mortimer in his poetry and prose entertainment, *Mortimer's Miscellany*. She has performed as narrator with leading American symphony orchestras, including the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl and The Boston Symphony at Carnegie Hall. Rohan comes to East Coker bringing her blend of poetry and prose that has delighted audiences throughout the world.

Tuesday 29 June – Open Evening

For anyone to come and read either their own poetry, or a favourite poem

All meetings are held at The Helyar Arms, 7.30pm

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

TIME TO SHARE

The year began with a lively demonstration of line-dancing by The Cokernuts, interspersed with a valiant attempt by some members to give it a go, stepping this way and that way and quite often the wrong way.

Don and Nora White came along to launch their knitting appeal for Romanian Children armed with some necessary materials to get volunteers started. It met with a good response.

Mr Old gave us some insights into the origins of Town Criers and his experiences when he held the position before retiring. At interview it was voice projection which held sway and got you the job – 'it's the way you tell'em rather than what you tell'em'.

Janet Harfield came along to describe her solo travels around North Carolina in eight days. It was no package tour for her but an opportunity that came along her way to bravely go it alone.

As well as line-dancing skills, members showed off their more cultural talents with a good response to the 'Poetry Please' session organised by Jean Caunter a local member of the East Coker Poetry Group.

Mike Bolton took us back in time – much within living memory of many, if not most of us – showing photographs and slides with commentary of such things as the changing styles of dress, transport and domestic life. In short a trip down a long memory lane.

With some trepidation, a nervous group took up the challenge to attend a 'thought provoking drama' at the Swan Theatre, admirably directed, performed amongst others by our local thespian, Ian White. We returned home proudly with our thoughts successfully provoked. And so to bed – mentally worn out!

Future dates:

12 April – Living with the Boss – Mrs Adams
10 May – Songs of Praise – St Michael's Church
7 June – Whole Day Outing

26 April – Spring Fair
24 May – Quizzes Galore
21 June Kingsbury Hand-bell Ringers



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

EAST COKER CRICKET CLUB

After last winter it's hard to imagine summer cricket, but our first match of 2010 takes place on 17 April with a pre-season home friendly against Crewkerne. The first year of revival was not easy, both on and off the pitch, but we've re-established with a strong infrastructure and huge desire to compete!

The club have recently been awarded a grant from the Somerset Community Foundation and we intend to build an outdoor net facility at the ground that everyone will be able to use.

Our thanks must go to the EC Parish Council, especially Roy Hodder and Pauline Gubbins who have helped to make last year a little easier. We travelled across Somerset last year visiting various grounds around the County – not one facility was as good as ours at East Coker and it's always a pleasure to play our home games.

Upcoming fixtures

17/4/10 Home vs Crewkerne (Friendly)

24/4/10 Home Club Match (Friendly)

1/5/10 Home vs Wembdon (League)

29/5/10 Home vs All Saints (League)

26/6/10 Home vs Chilton Polden (League)

27/6/10 Home vs Bridgwater Sports (League)

If anyone is interested in playing or becoming a member of the club or you would just like to sample the best Teas in the County then please visit www.eccricket.org.uk or call Martin on 413979.

EAST COKER W I

Diary dates

Thursday 15 April

Whist Drive 7.30pm

Thursday 29 April

W.I. Tristan da Cunha 7.30pm

MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

The Coffee Mornings are held on the last Friday of every month by kind permission of The Helyar Arms, from 10.00am – 12 noon. Do join us for coffee, tea, homemade scones, jam and cream and cakes.

Friday 30 April – Diabetic Association

Friday 28 May – Sutton Bingham Church Roof Appeal

Friday 25 June – Fresh Start

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313

Penny Marpole 863055

EAST COKER PLAYERS

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support during our successful pantomime 'Aladdin'. It was lovely to see familiar and new faces in our audiences and in our cast this year. We hope you all enjoyed it.

We recently held our AGM and our new committee will be getting together to plan forthcoming events. Look out for posters on village notice-boards for announcements.

We are always looking for people to join us, old or young (min age 8), whether on stage or behind the scenes. If interested, please contact us.

FOUND

A pair of glasses, rectangular frames. These were found in the Dampier Room on the evening of Saturday 20 February 2010 after the Aladdin Pantomime.

Hazel Giddings Secretary – East Coker Players 429163

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EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

The programme for April to August

Thursday 8 April - Forde Abbey Gardens – Mark Roper and Alison Kennard

Thursday 13 May – Flowers for the Flower Arranger – Sue Mason

Thursday 10 June – Visits to local members' gardens (from 6:00pm)

Thursday 8 July - Wildlife in the Garden: Friend or Foe? – David Manner

Thursday 12 August – English Cheese – Derek March

Monthly meetings are held in the East Coker Village 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).

EAST COKER READING GROUP

We meet on the first Tuesday evening of each month. We are currently reading 'The Friday Night Knitting Club' by Kate Jacobs. In April we are looking at 'The Space Between Us' by Thrity Umrigar. Our proposed reading schedule includes authors as diverse as John Steinbeck and Dawn French so please do join us and introduce us to your favourite book. At the moment there are just seven of us meeting but, if there is sufficient interest, we would like to form a day time group as well.

If you wish to have more details please contact Kevin Chapman on 07812726853 or 01935 422594 or email ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk

EAST COKER KEEP FIT

The East Coker Keep Fit Group meet in the East Coker Village Hall on Tuesdays at 6.15pm for Exercise, Movement and Dance combined to give a whole body and mind workout. From warm-up; stretching; cardiac workout; with scarves, hoops, clubs and balls, all at your own pace; specially designed by a highly qualified teacher. If you would like to join us, please contact Mary Ashley on 862263.

EAST COKER FLOWER SHOW – 21 August 2010

The photography classes are

Motor Car

Live Stock

Reflection

Sporting Occasions'

Night Light's

Group of 4 (Pub Signs)

Young People

EAST COKER SCHOOL

Arrivals and departures

At the end of the summer term, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Frosdick and Mrs Chapman who have both decided to take (very) early retirement. They have given excellent service to the school and will be very much missed but have thought long and hard over their decisions and are looking forward to new challenges and opportunities. There will be an appropriate send-off in July. Mrs Hickey will be starting her maternity leave after half-term in June.

Police horses

We have had a visit from two members of the Mounted Police Division. Gary and Tracey brought Redland and Imperial and gave an impressive display which showed how well-trained their horses are, and they then answered questions (the riders, not the horses). Thanks to Amber Smith for arranging this visit.

Vouchers

As ever, we are pleased to receive any vouchers which you may be given towards equipment for schools. Tesco is once again running its scheme and there is a collecting box for vouchers just outside the office. Thank you again for your support.

Term Dates

Term ends Thursday 1 April 2010 and begins Monday 19 April 2010

Half-term – Friday 28 May 2010 to Monday 7 June 2010

Summer Term ends Friday 23 July and begins Thursday 2 September 2010

The Summer Fair will be held on Friday 11 June 2010 at 6.30pm

Richard Powell, Head Teacher

EAST COKER PLAYGROUP

Spring Term has flown by at an incredible rate. The children at the playgroup have been finding out about their Senses. This has involved a favourite activity, tasting foods the children have prepared and made. Closely linked to tasting, of course, is smelling, seeing and touching and listening out for the timer to tell us when the food is cooked. Luckily there was no burning smell! The Senses is a fantastic topic because the children can take it wherever they go and with whatever they do. All Senses were put to good use for the Playgroup's Pancake Race at the end of half-term, what a delicious way to exercise. Alongside the Senses the children have also been finding out about Natural Materials. The children and their families have been challenged to a Sponsored Easter Collection, I am sure there will be all sorts of natural materials collected.

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 in 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. 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

The Playgroup will be holding their annual fundraising Summer Fair on Saturday 12 June 2010 at the Pavilion and recreation ground. We look forward to seeing you all there. There will be the usual stalls, entertainment and refreshments during the afternoon.

EAST COKER TEA-ROOM

Penny, Ann and the students welcome regular and new customers to the Tearooms. We are open every day from 9.00am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday for Coffee, Tea, and Lunches serving good home-cooked food.

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

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

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. We are now only able to collect newsprint - sorry no magazines. Arrangements for Nash Lane and Helena Road are co-ordinated separately by Ray Smith.

Newspaper Collections Saturday 24 April

Saturday 29 May

Saturday 27 June

Jumble Sale

Saturday 24 April – East Coker Village Hall from 2.00pm.

Last year we experienced problems disposing of the remaining jumble at the end of the sale and therefore request that people only provide good quality jumble. **REMEMBER WE WILL STILL COLLECT** Contact Max Bugler 862186 Thank you for your continued support.

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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.

Bible Discussion – We hold a Bible Discussion group in the Chapel on alternate Thursday evenings. Sometimes it is based on a DVD and sometimes on a book. If anyone would like to join us or form another study or discussion group, please contact Kevin Chapman for details of dates and times.

Weekly Meetings – 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays 11.00am – Worship Service. 2nd Sunday 11.00am – Family Service. 4th Sunday 6.30pm -Communion.
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 07812726853 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.

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Services

Holy Thursday 1 April – 6.30pm The Last Supper and Silence.

Good Friday 2 April – 10.00am Stations of the Cross.

Holy Saturday 3 April – 6.30pm New Fire and Renewal of Vows.

Easter Day 4 April – 8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Family Service 6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 11 April – 8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Sung Eucharist B 6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 18 April – 8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Sung Eucharist A 6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 25 April – 8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Sung Eucharist B 6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 2 May – 10.00am Family Service – Margaret & Peter Long – 'Children of Fiji'

Sunday 9 May – 10.00am – Rogation 10.00am – if fine we will walk near the church.

Thursday 13 May – Ascension Day – 6.30pm

Sunday 16 May – 10.00am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 23 May – Pentecost/ Whit – 10.00am Family Service

Sunday 30 May – Trinity – 10.00am Sung Eucharist – Roger Burt's last service at St Michael's.

Sunday 7 June – 10.00am – Derek Esp – a Lay Reader from Hinton St George.

Future Sunday services to be announced.

Future Events

Easter Day 4 April – 3.00pm-ish Egg Rolling Games and Tea at Gregg's Riding Stables.

Wednesday 14 April – AGM – **NB** to be held at St Michael's Church, 7.30pm not the East Coker Village Hall.

Saturday 8 May – Plant Sale, Hope House, (Bubspool) 10.00am – 12 noon.

Sunday 23 May – Farewell Lunch for Roger Burt, East Coker Village Hall, 12.30pm.

ST MICHAELS CHURCH AND VILLAGE FETE

**Saturday 3 July 2.00pm
at**

The Vicarage

**Any help with stalls, teas etc gratefully received
We would love to have ideas for children's games!**

Please contact Penny Marpole with your ideas! 863055

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SUTTON BINGHAM

Coffee Morning

Friday 28 May, The Helyar Arms 10.00am – 12 noon in aid of the Church Roof Fund. All Welcome.

Services

Good Friday 2 April – 11.00am Litany and Prayers

Easter Day 4 April – 9.00am Holy Communion

18 April – 11.30am 2 May – 9.00am

16 May – 11.30am 6 June – 9.00am

20 June – 11.30am 4 July – 9.00am

Churchwardens Mrs Carol Blackmore 862192 Mrs Heather Snook 474138

BIBLE MID-WEEK MEETINGS

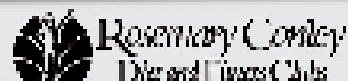
Wednesday 21 April – Peter Bannister, formerly St James' Taunton – Malachi 2.17-3.18 – Ready for Justice

Wednesday 19 May – Edward Armitstead – Malachi 4.1-6 – The Dawn of the Day.

The meetings take place in the East Coker Village Hall at 7.00pm. Do join us and bring your friends with you. Refreshments are served after each meeting. For further information, please contact Edward 862575 or Roy 862519

Achieve Amazing Inch Loss

at Rosemary Conley's Diet and Exercise classes



MONDAY

Crewkerne Town Hall
Town Hall, Victoria Buildings,
Market Square, Crewkerne
10:00 - 11:30 am

TUESDAY

Oaklands Primary Community
School, Parfields,
5 Preston Grove, Yeovil
6:00 - 7:30 pm
7:30 - 9:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Quick Silver Mail
168 Hendford Hill, Yeovil
09:30 - 11:00 am

Crewkerne Town Hall
Town Hall, Victoria Buildings,
Market Square, Crewkerne
6:00 - 7:30 pm

THURSDAY

East Coker Village Hall
Unit 3, The Old Sawmills,
Halves Lane, Yeovil
09:30 - 11:00 am

Oaklands Primary Community
School, Parfields,
5 Preston Grove, Yeovil
6:00 - 7:30 pm
7:30 - 9:00 pm -
(Slim & Salsacise)



Call Rachel on 01935 864453

Email: rachel.cozens@rosemaryconley.com www.rosemaryconley.com

* Class price: £5.75 Cut out advert and use to claim. Ref: East Coker 2010

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our pack
inserted
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ALL SAINTS' CHURCH CLOSOWORTH

We shall continue our Family Service during the Summer – please check with me for the August meeting. In June, Sally McConnel, Reader at Barwick and Holy Trinity, will be taking the service and giving a talk. When I heard her at Barwick she was very good. Later, we may have a 'Songs of Praise' in place of an Evensong.

Is there anybody able to help out at the Family Service by playing the Keyboard? If you know of someone please phone me.

Monica 862834

Village News

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. Somerset Organic Link SOL 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 or a large vegetable or fruit box is £8.30, and 5 kg sack of potatoes £2.60.

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

More information about SOL can be found on their website: www.somersetorganiclink.co.uk

PLANT SALE – For St. Margaret's Hospice

This year we will be holding our Annual Plant Sale on Saturday 15 May 2010 between 10.00am and 2.00pm at Weavers Lodge, East Coker. Profits will be going to St. Margaret's Hospice.

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 where there will be signs directing you to the sale. I have a willing husband with wheelbarrows 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. Any other plants (labelled please!) that are in excess of needs would also be welcome. Hope to see you there.

Christine and Glenn Seymour 863961.

GOOSE SLADE FARM SHOP

With the weather warming up, we are able to offer morning coffee or afternoon tea and cake outside on the patio.

We have local spring lamb available for Easter and Dan's tasty home reared beef, or if you prefer, our own-reared succulent pork as well as our oven ready geese from the freezer. Fresh goose sausages are also available.

We are open from 10.00am till 6.00pm Tuesday to Saturday but please note **we will be closed on Saturday 17 April for the wedding of our son, Joe.** Sorry for any inconvenience.

Yeovil Country Fayre at Ninesprings is to be held on Monday 31 May from 10.00am to 4.00pm. It's a lovely day out for all the family with children's activities and free entry. We will be attending again, serving BBQ refreshments of our home-made burgers and sausages. Come and see us on our stall.

Enquiries to Phil, Liz or Lindsey on 01935 863735

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WESTLAKE SURGERY TRAINING DAYS

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 8.30 am – 11 00am as usual and then closes completely until 1.30 pm. If a medical emergency occurs during that time then patients can either dial 999 or the surgery can be contacted on 0787 575 0811. The surgery opens again as usual from 1.30 pm.

The dates of the training days in 2010 are:-

| | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| Friday 30 April | Friday 21 May | Friday 25 June | Friday 30 July |
| Friday 17 September | Friday 22 October | Friday 26 November | |

EAST COKER VILLAGE STORE

Good news from your village store – the improvements have all been completed and according to popular opinion the shop is now looking very nice.

Bad news from your village store – sales are falling as more people choose to shop solely at supermarkets and some of our loyal supporters are sadly no longer here in the village.

We are much more than just a newsagents and sweet shop, we try to carry all the essential groceries and much more besides. To quote one customer recently 'You are like a mini supermarket' but we also have the personal touch and are on your doorstep. We do urge those of you who do not usually use the shop to come and have a good look round and are sure you will be surprised. To those of you who pop in for your paper, please take time to browse around and see if you can save yourself a journey into town for the few items you need. If you are unable to get out to do your shopping we also provide a home delivery service.

We do not want to beg for support. We are a service and an asset to East Coker that we are sure most residents want to remain especially when so many other villages have seen their village stores close recently. In the snow we were described as a 'godsend' and want to remain a strong focus in the village for many years to come.

The slogan '**USE IT OR LOSE IT**' seems harsh we prefer '**TO KEEP YOUR STORE, USE IT MORE**'

Please don't rely on other people to make a difference we all need to work together.

If you need to contact us our telephone number is 862711 Paul, Vicky, Emmalia and Lillia Moorhouse

EAST COKER OIL – PURCHASE SCHEME

I've had this really good idea! The oil suppliers' tankers are forever rushing from place to place using valuable fuel and time. Why not make life easier and cheaper for them by co-ordinating our orders so that a trip to East Coker is really worth-while? They might even give us a discount.

Well we've actually been doing it for the last year and it's worked pretty well. We've saved between 2p a litre and nearly 4p. Multiply that by 1000 litres – looks like £20 to £40 to me. And don't forget that if you have less than 1000 litres you'll be paying the same price and saving more per litre.

Before you ask, I 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 four orders per year on a quarterly basis in January, April, July and October and I have been advised that July 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. As the participants know, it all went pear-shaped in January with the bad weather and panic-buying, but in the end those who could wait got a very good price for a February delivery.

To participate or with any questions, contact me, preferably by email (pauleddwards@waitrose.com) or 864413. Email makes it much easier to circulate information and I do not divulge email addresses. Let me know your requirements for April by 7.00pm on Wednesday 14 April.

SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY

The mobile library visiting times and dates for the stops in 2010 are:

1 April 22 April 13 May 3 June 24 June 15 July

East Coker

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| The 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 |

South Somerset Choral Society

VERDI REQUIEM

Sunday 18 April 2010 at 7.45pm The Tithe Barn, Haselbury Mill, near Crewkerne, just off the A30

**Conductor: Richard Barrell
Orchestra Leader: Mark Bunker**

**Soloists: Lesley Jane Rogers, soprano
Penelope Davies, contralto
Richard Rowntree, tenor
Stephen Foulkes, bass**

Tickets £12 from members of the choir, or by telephone 01935 850483 or 01460 30305
From Tyries Newsagents, Crewkerne; the Minster Pharmacy, Ilminster ; or Hooked on Books, Chard.
Visit the website at southsomersetchoralsociety.org for full details.

NOTES FROM THE OBSERVATORY

Vernal Equinox 20 March 2010

What a long cold winter it has been. After a mild autumn, winter began abruptly on 1 December and lasted until early March, almost as long as the severe winter of 1962/63. A blocking high pressure system remained over the land drawing in very cold air from the Continent and from the Arctic. It was not until early March that the high was replaced by blessed Atlantic weather which lifted our daily temperatures. The only redeeming feature of the long winter has been a fairly dry period throughout.

Rainfall this year has been 152mm (5.99ins) but we have had 27 frosty mornings.

The lowest overnight temperature fell to minus 7.1C (19.2F) on 8 January while it froze all day on the two days of 7 and 8 January

The village did not have the heavy snowfalls that disrupted traffic further west and elsewhere in the country.

The long cold winter has put the flowering of our spring plants back by some three weeks. I have not yet seen the usual Spring plants in flower, such as celandines and primroses yet snowdrops and crocuses were hardly affected. Daffodils are very late this year. Hazel catkins appeared in mid March. Jew's Ear fungus, easily recognisable, was surprisingly reported growing on a Buddleia; the elder is the usual host.

Frog spawn has appeared in my garden pond so the cycle of life continues.

I received an interesting report of a Red-legged Partridge (a continental variety) spotted in shrubbery at Wraxhill Road in early February, while many starlings were seen performing their intricate aerial displays and patterns near ASDA

A report that 'Spring is on the way' proceeded a sighting of two brimstones while a small tortoiseshell has been seen flying in March.

Despite the cold winter, the usual nondescript winter moths have been flying throughout the cold. I saw the first bumble bee flying on a sunny warm day on 18 March.

Saturn will soon appear in the southern night sky as Mars moves away to the west.

Francis Cloke. 862496

www.eastcoker.com

EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

Pupils at East Coker School have been issued with hi-visibility jackets to highlight their walk to the school. Thanks to District & County Councillor, Cathy Bakewell for her support for this.

A small team of Parish Councillors has been set up as a working committee to attend relevant meetings in order to monitor **future planning issues** which may adversely affect East Coker parish. This mostly applies to the mandate for the expansion of Yeovil.

South Somerset District Council will no longer be directly in control of **Rights of Way** maintenance in its area after 1 April 2010. The local team has been very supportive, responding promptly to repairs and problems. Responsibility will pass back to the County Council, who are currently reviewing the structure of the Rights of Way service and formulating a plan of how this will be run from April onwards.

Meanwhile they have also expanded their **Handyman Service**, which has been set up to help residents who are unable to carry out essential household tasks.

Their **'Love Food, Hate Waste'** Campaign has been set up to encourage people to make a pledge to reduce their food waste – **only buy what you need**.

They are also now able to offer all households a **Garden Waste Collection Service**. Special Wheelie Bin (PUT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON IT!) costs £60 and you are then registered for a fortnightly collection. They also have bundles of garden waste sacks at £15 for 10 sacks. Contact Brympton Way on 462462.

In response to the ever increasing number of complaints about dogs fouling pavements, verges and amenity areas, South Somerset District Council has issued a new leaflet to local dog owners:

Dog Owners' Guide to Keeping Our Towns & Villages Clean.

- Give your dog plenty of exercise, but keep it under control. You are legally responsible for your dog's conduct.
- **ALWAYS** clean up after your dog. Failure to do so may lead to a fine of up to £1000.
- Train your dog to use your own garden, if at all possible.
- In the interests of public health, do not allow your dog onto sports' fields and pitches.
- Your dog **MUST** wear a tag bearing your name and address. Tags are available from the Council, pet shops and vets.
- If you allow children to exercise your dogs, they must be competent, and be responsible for the dog's behaviour.
- The Enforcement Officers actively seize dogs which are unattended in public areas. These are taken to the Council's Kennelling Facility and are only released on payment of the prescribed charges.
- Children can contract diseases such as toxocariasis and salmonella from dogs' mess. Ensure that your dog is wormed regularly.

Enforcement Officers are promoting responsible dog ownership throughout South Somerset. They work closely with Parish and Town Councils to identify and target problem areas. For further information contact your local Enforcement Officer on 462462.

PLEASE TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR AREA BY CLEANING UP AFTER YOUR DOG.

Warm Streets, a locally based project aimed at helping householders cut their fuel bills and save energy, continues to offer free and discounted loft and cavity walls insulation for those over 70, in receipt of benefits or on a low income. They are now offering a £99 discount for the same service for other homes. Contact 0800 512012 for further advice.

"...Where in the world could you find a Bakelite coffin, the oldest man-made road in Britain, the largest collection of Naval aircraft or Victorian prosthetic limbs.....?"

Natalie Watson, (mobile: 07854 174272) the **Community Heritage and Museum Development Officer** for our area would like to draw attention to the new Heritage Service 'tube-map' of Somerset's best Heritage sites and an accompanying website and guidebook, which can be downloaded from www.visitsomerset.co.uk/touringmap. Copies are available from her at Somerset Records Office, Obridge Road, Taunton TA2 7PU. Tel 01823 362849 or 462889. This publication is ideal for tourism related businesses, B&B, etc. as well as for public information.

The new liaising **Police Officer** for our area is PC Justin Pitman. He is based at Yeovil, rather than at Crewkerne. He attended the November Parish Council meeting, and can be contacted on **0845 456 7000**.

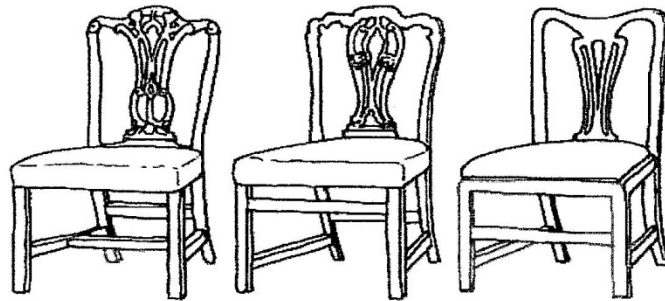
VILLAGE DIARY: APRIL 2010 - JULY 2010

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Tues 6 April | Poetry Group - Sylvia Townsend Warner | The Helyar Arms | 7.30pm |
| Wed 7 April | Wine Circle – 'Magician at Work' | East Coker Hall | 8.00pm |
| Thurs 8 April | Gardening Club – Forde Abbey | East Coker Hall | 7.30pm |
| Mon 12 April | TTS – Mrs Adams | East Coker Hall | 2.30pm |
| Wed 14 Apr | AGM | St Michael's Church | 7.30pm |
| Thurs 15 April | W I – Whist Drive | East Coker Hall | 7.30pm |
| Sat 17 April | East Coker Cricket Club – Home Game | | |
| Thurs 22 April | Library | | |
| Fri 23 April | Royal British Legion – Cheese & Wine | The Helyar Arms | 7.30pm |
| Sat 24 April | East Coker Cricket Club – Home Game | | |
| Sat 24 April | Scouts – Jumble Sale | East Coker Hall | 2.00pm |
| Sat 24 April | Scouts Newspaper Collection | Near the School | 9.00am – 10.30am |
| Mon 26 April | ECVH Charitable Trust AGM | East Coker Hall | 7.30pm |
| Mon 26 April | TTS – Spring Fair | East Coker Hall | 2.30pm |
| Thurs 29 April | W I – Tristan da Cunha | East Coker Hall | 7.30pm |
| Fri 30 April | Coffee Morning – Diabetic Association | The Helyar Arms | 10.00am – 12 noon |
| Sat 01 May | East Coker Cricket Club – Home Game | | 2.30pm |
| Sat 8 May | Plant Sale | Hope House | 10.00am – 12 noon |
| Mon 10 May | TTS – Songs of Praise | St Michael's Church | |
| Thurs 13 May | Gardening Club | East Coker Hall | 7.30pm |
| Thurs 13 May | Library | | |
| Sat 15 May | Plant Sale – St Margaret's Hospice | Weaver's Lodge | 10.00am – 2.00pm |
| Tues 18 May | East Coker Society - AGM | Dampier Room | 7.30pm |
| Sun 23 May | Farewell Lunch for Roger Burt | East Coker Hall | 12.30pm |
| Mon 24 May | TTS – Quizzes | East Coker Hall | 2.30pm |
| Tues 25 May | Poetry Group – Rohan McCullough | The Helyar Arms | 7.30pm |
| Fri 28 May | Coffee Morning – Sutton Bingham | The Helyar Arms | 10.00am – 12 noon |
| Sat 29 May | East Coker Cricket Club – Home Game | | |
| Sat 29 May | Scouts Newspaper Collection | Near the School | 9.00am – 10.30am |
| Thurs 03 June | Library | | |
| Mon 07 June | TTS – Whole Day Outing | | |
| Thurs 10 June | Gardening Club – Visits to gardens | | 6.00pm |
| Fri 11 June | East Coker School – Summer Fair | The School | 6.30pm |
| Sat 12 June | Playgroup – Summer Fair | The Pavilion | 2.00pm |
| Mon 21 June | TTS – Hand-bell Ringing | East Coker Hall | 2.30pm |
| Thurs 24 Jun | Copy for July Newsletter | | |
| Fri 25 June | Cream Teas – Action Medical Research | | |
| Fri 25 June | Coffee Morning – Fresh Start | The Helyar Arms | 10.00am – 12 noon |
| Sat 26 June | East Coker Cricket Club – Home Game | | |
| Sat 26 June | Scouts Newspaper Collection | Near the School | 9.00am – 10.30am |
| Sun 27 June | East Coker Cricket Club – Home Game | | |
| Tues 29 June | Poetry Group – Open Evening | The Helyar Arms | 7.30pm |
| Sat 03 July | Fete | The Vicarage | 2.00pm |
| Thurs 08 July | Gardening Club – Wildlife in Garden | East Coker Hall | 7.30pm |
| Sat 10 July | Walk for Tiny Lives | The Pavilion | 11.00am |

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in July 2010. 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 **Thursday 24 June 2010**.

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



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