

# East Coker Society Newsletter



April 2011

Free Issue No 142

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## East Coker Society News

### 200+ EMAILS BUT MORE PLEASE! LET'S MAKE IT 220+ THIS QUARTER!

We have roughly 800 households in the village, yet only 210 have taken up the e-mail option. In asking for villager's 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.

We 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 arise through illness and holidays etc.

### A.G.M.

The East Coker Society is holding its AGM on Tuesday 17 May, 7.30pm in the Dampier Room, East Coker Village Hall. As all villagers are members of the Society we would love to see you there.

### VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY 2011 – PLEASE USE IT!

The 2011 Diary is now at The Stores, East Coker, and can be found in the shop – please ask. **It is vital that village organisations put their forthcoming events in the Diary to avoid the dates clashing.** Thank you.

## Village Clubs and Organisations

### EAST COKER VILLAGE FETE 2011

You may recall that last year East Coker Christian Fellowship took on the organisation of East Coker Village Fête at quite short notice. This year we have rather more time and would like to do a slightly better job and we have therefore circulated everybody who supported us so well last year and those who have shown an interest. The Fête is booked to take place on Saturday 2 July from 12.00 noon until 4.00pm at East Coker Village Hall and the field adjoining.

This year we are intending making an entrance charge of £1.00 per adult with under 18's entering for free. As with last year we believe that all of those who take part should retain whatever monies they make for their own organisation or donate them to a charity of their choice. This year we also intend making a charge for all those having tables or stalls. The charging rate is £1.50 per foot for those in the Hall and £1.00p per foot for those in the field (based on the frontage size of the marquee/ tent/pagoda you bring or the table space you occupy in one of the marquees). Last year we subsidised the fete quite heavily. This year whilst it is not our intention to make a profit from the Fête we do want to cover the costs of hire, the gifts made to those who are attending at our request and the insurance costs. Any excess will be donated to charity. We will gladly put details in the next issue of the East Coker Village Newsletter so that you might identify where monies have gone.

If you would like to be part of the Village Fête this year but have not yet been contacted please do let me  
[www.eastcoker.com](http://www.eastcoker.com)

know. I am afraid that everyone who has a stall will be required to complete and return a risk assessment record. If you have any queries please email me on [ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk) or telephone on 422594 or mobile 07812726853. Alternatively why not come along to our Coffee Morning held each Wednesday between 11.00am and 1.00pm at the Chapel in Burton Lane?

Kevin Chapman, Fellowship Pastor, East Coker Christian Fellowship



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### **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE**

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### **EAST COKER READING GROUP**

We now have two groups meeting once a month. The evening group meets on the first Tuesday of each month and the daytime group meets on the first Wednesday of each month. This month we have been reading 'The Poisonwood Bible' by Barbara Kingsolver. Next month we are looking at 'The River' by Tricia Wastvedt. This month we have been particularly grateful to Lesley Lindsay as she has passed on to us a number of copies of 'Dissolution' by C. J. Sansom as part of World Book Night 2011.

If you are interested in joining either group or wish to have more details of what we do, please contact Kevin Chapman on 07812726853 or 422594 or email [ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk)

### **EAST COKER ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH**

Our popular Cream Tea Promotion will take place again this year on Friday 1 July. If anyone would like a delicious Cream Tea with Strawberries delivered to their home that day please contact Angie Mead on 862972 or Barb Raison on 862553.

We are expanding this event this year by doing an overnight delivery to offices in London and elsewhere. There will be a minimum order of 20 and these will be delivered am on Thursday 30 June. If you know anyone who might like to have a West Country Cream Tea delivered to their desk please give me a ring on 478409 and I will forward those details.

Jane Donnelly



Are you suffering from joint and muscle stiffness, high blood pressure, headaches or postural and mobility issues, or are you feeling stressed and finding it difficult to cope with your life? Massage can help! As well as smoothing out the aches and pains and tensions it can also contribute to your general sense of well being and aliveness.

Why not take the opportunity to find out how that might feel?

I am a qualified massage practitioner and I live and work in East Coker. You will be treated with sensitivity and respect at all times within a homely and peaceful environment.

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

## EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

East Coker winemakers continued to underline their skills in producing fine wines at the Somerset Association of Amateur Winemakers' Annual Festival at Puriton in March. The East Coker Circle gained most points in the wine classes and Vince Wolny gained most points by an individual. Vince won nine trophies and Joyce Pryor won a further four. Class Results: Table red dry – 2, Joyce Pryor; vhc Vince Wolny. Table white dry– vhc Joyce Pryor. Table white medium – 1, Vince Wolny. Table rosé medium – 2, Vince Wolny. After dinner white or golden – 3, Vince Wolny. After dinner red – 1, Joyce Pryor; c, Vince Wolny. Aperitif medium, excluding sherry – 1, Vince Wolny. Aperitif, sherry type – 1, Joyce Pryor; vhc Vince Wolny. Root/Vegetable medium sweet – 3, Vince Wolny. Social white – 3, Vince Wolny. Elderberry/blackberry dry – 1, Vince Wolny; vhc, Ian Westaway; hc Joyce Pryor. Elderberry/blackberry sweet– 1, Vince Wolny; 2, Joyce Pryor. Kit white dry – 2, Joyce Pryor; vhc Vince Wolny. Kit red dry – 1, Vince Wolny; 3, Joyce Pryor. Kit sweet –1, Vince Wolny. Elderflower medium sweet – 1, Vince Wolny; 2, Joyce Pryor. Flower other than elderflower – 1, Vince Wolny. Fresh grape white dry – 2, Vince Wolny. Three bottle class (white dry, red dry and red dessert) – 1, Joyce Pryor; 3, Vince Wolny. Kit liqueur – 2, Joyce Pryor; vhc Vince Wolny. Liqueur vodka based – hc Ian Westaway. Recipe class (parsnip) – 3, Vince Wolny. Barley wine – 2, Joyce Pryor. Bitter ale – 1, Joyce Pryor. Stout dry – 3, Joyce Pryor.

The Circle continues its tasting theme for the next three monthly meetings. The Rev. Terry Bailee will be presenting a session on Burgundy wines at the April meeting. This will be followed in May with a talk and tasting of cider by author, James Crowden, and the Circle's year will close in June with another commercial wine tasting. This, the annual meeting, will also decide the Winemaker of the Year competition and the cooking competition.

The Annual Theme Party - Black & White - postponed due to the severe weather in January will take place at the East Coker Village Hall on Saturday 9 April when music will be provided by Fine Whines, who were a great hit at the annual summer event last year. The duo, with the sextet sound, will be augmented for the party by a multi-talented instrumentalist. A sample of their music can be heard on their website ([www.finewhinesjazz.com](http://www.finewhinesjazz.com)). Tickets, at £8 (includes a two-course meal and punch) are strictly limited and can be obtained from Chris Branson on 863555 or Vince Wolny on 863838.

The Circle meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the East Coker Village Hall at 8.00pm, unless otherwise notified. New members and guests interested in wine are welcome. Annual membership costs only £10 and guest fees are £3 for a tasting evening and £2 for a speaker only evening. Further details from the Secretary 862816 or the web site [www.eastcokerwinecircle.co.uk](http://www.eastcokerwinecircle.co.uk)

## Diary Dates

Wednesday 6 April – Burgundy wine-tasting (Rev Terry Bailee)

Saturday 9 April – Black & White theme party (music by Fine Whines)

Wednesday 4 May Cider – talk and tasting (Author, James Crowden)

Wednesday 8 June – AGM Commercial tasting, wine and cooking competitions and AGM

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## EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

### April to July Programme

Thursday 14 April – From Brussels with Love – Mary Benger, Burrow Farm Gardens, Dalwood

Thursday 12 May – Open Charity Event – Katherine Crouch, BBC Gardener of the Decade

The Gardening Club is sponsoring this evening in support of St Margaret's Hospice, Yeovil. The experienced and highly entertaining speaker will be talking about her participation in, and winning, of this BBC competition. Tickets for the event (members £6, non-members £8) are available from East Coker Village Store or Stan Shayler 420291. As this is likely to be a popular event with numbers limited, it is recommended that tickets are bought before the evening.

Thursday 9 June – The Trust, and Wildlife Gardening – Joy Wallis, Dorset Wildlife Trust

Thursday 14 July - Somerset NGS Gardens – Sarah Wilcox

Meetings are in the East Coker Village Hall, Halves Lane, on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30pm. Visitors and new members are most welcome. Entrance to normal monthly meetings for non-members is £3.00.

Further information can be obtained from Catherine Denney, Hon. Secretary (862294) or Stan Shayler, Hon. Treasurer (420291).

## EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

Tuesday 26 April – Julia Copus – *We left before I had time*

*To comfort you, to tell you that we nearly touched.....*

So starts Julia Copus' most famous poem, 'The Back Seat of My Mother's Car'. We are fortunate that she is coming to East Coker to read some of her poems and will answer questions about her work and poetry.

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

## **EAST COKER VILLAGE QUIZ 2011**

The Sixth Annual Village Quiz was held in East Coker Village Hall on 12 March. Twenty-three teams of eight competed in an evening of questions which tested their knowledge on subjects ranging from Cockney Rhyming Slang to Beatlemania and This Sceptred Isle. In the interval an excellent fish-and-chip supper was enjoyed by all.

This year's quiz was won by the Scouts team with the Crumplers as runners-up, closely followed by the Wine Circle.

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 total of £942. This will be given to the charity nominated by last year's winners – Action Medical Research.

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 10 March 2012.

Martyn and Cherry Sowerbutts 863313

## **EAST COKER W I**

We continue to have very varied and interesting speakers at our monthly meetings, held on the last Thursday of the month, and have attracted new members as a result. The whist drives, which are open to both members and non-members are held on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm at the East Coker Village Hall. At only £2 entrance fee, which includes refreshments and good prizes, this proves to be very good value for an evening's entertainment.

For any further information please contact the secretary Audrey Spurr, 862342

### **Dates for diary**

Thursday 21 April – Whist Drive – East Coker Village Hall 7.30pm

Thursday 28 April – A.C.W.W. – East Coker Village Hall 7.30pm

Thursday 26 May – Yetminster Irish Dancers – East Coker Village Hall 7.30pm

Thursday 30 June – Birthday Outing

## **EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

This year is the 90th Anniversary of The Royal British Legion and the 80th Anniversary of the formation of East Coker Branch, which now includes the sub-branches of West Coker, Hardington and East Chinnock. With the kind permission of Mr & Mrs R Timmis, the Branch is holding an afternoon Poppy Tea Party at The Manor, West Coker on Saturday 11 June from 2.30pm – 5.00pm. Cream Teas will be available and attractions, suitable for all ages, are being arranged. Please join us and help to celebrate this historic occasion. See more information on village notice-boards and local press nearer the event.

Sadly, an awful lot of Legion Club's and branches have closed over the years, through lack of support. It is the intention of the committee and myself to see our now combined branch continues into the next decade and beyond. With your help we will. Please consider becoming a member. You do not have to be ex-service to join. Please contact any of those listed below.

The support provided by the Branch and The Royal British Legion as a whole to our service personnel past and present, and their dependants, is as much needed today as ever. Life for some is terribly hard and quite often lonely. A lot are too proud to ask for help. Are you aware of any ex-service person who requires help? Please contact Marilyn Smith or myself. The RBL have welfare case-workers, who are trained to provide help and advice for these vulnerable people.

Thank you all for your support.

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

## TIME TO SHARE

Has Britain Got Talent?

Well Somerset certainly has. The 'Take Notes' as pleasing to the eye as the ear, entertained us with a most enjoyable programme of songs, sketches and verse. A great start to the New Year.

Dave Rees talking as a driving instructor warned us of wantonly disregarding parking regulations in Weymouth. There are more Traffic wardens there than elsewhere and they take no prisoners – you have been warned!

The three R's of the recycling centre in Castle Cary stands for 'Reduce, Re-use and Recycle' Their PR representative Cara Naden explained how the company operated and then gave us a little quiz – well more of a guessing game.

"How many years does it take the following to decompose naturally"?

- a) cardboard; b) glass; c) nappies; d) plastic bags; e) bottles; f) drinks cartons; g) cans

The answers: a) 5years; b) forever; c) 500years; d) 400 years; e) 450years; f) 5 years+ g) 80 years

On a previous visit to Time To Share, Janet Horfield described her solo trip exploring the west coast of California. This time it was her travels through the South Island of New Zealand.

Several members enjoyed an evening at The Swan Theatre, showing the mystery thriller 'The Night Watch', whilst outside another kind of night-watch was featuring a larger than normal full moon in a paler shade of yellow.

Christine Eastmond finished our programme for this quarter with her poetry reading of a selection of her own poems, most of which were spontaneous responses to the moment and much influenced by her faith – life in The Church Army.

### Future Dates

4 April – Secret World – talk with a demonstration of animals.

18 April – Easter Bazaar

9 May – My School Days – Mr Tinney

23 May – Short Mat Bowls

6 June – Outing

20 June Continnence Advisor

4 July – Our Favourite Hymns at St Michael's

18 July – Garden Party

## EAST COKER FLOWER SHOW AND WINE FESTIVAL

Just a quick reminder to all that on the 20 August 2011 East Coker Flower Show and Wine Festival is being held at the East Coker Village Hall. We have removed the class 'Any other Jam' and replaced it with 'Marmalade'. There have also been some changes in the Floral Art section and the Crafts. The schedules will be out soon.

### The photography classes are as follows

Winter Scene

An East Coker View

Wheels

Humour

In the Air

Four Somerset Buildings.

We hope you all will have some inspiration. The date for entries to close is Wednesday 17 August.. I will write a short piece for the next Newsletter to explain how to display some of your produce, we hope it will help to encourage some new people to come along and have a go.

Sarah Rashley

### The Flower Show – Not all Dahlias and Chrysanthus

This item is for all those of you who may have, in previous years, seen signs up for the East Coker Flower Show and wondered what it was all about (and also for those who've visited the show and thought 'Maybe my carrots aren't so bad – I should have entered').

You may have had visions of serried ranks of perfect roses, dahlias and gladioli surrounded by serious-faced judges pointing critically. Of course, the Flower Show does have its fair share of beautiful blooms but there is so much more and there is no compulsion to be seriously competitive (although there is considerable pride in going home with a rosette).

There are classes for vegetables and fruit, flowers, home-craft (jams, baking etc.), crafts, photography, children's classes and wines. Those new to the game may worry that their average offerings will attract scorn when placed alongside prize-winning specimens but have no fear – your name will be displayed ONLY if you win a place, otherwise your entries will remain anonymous.

This year the committee is keen to attract new entrants, especially from those with young families and those new to the village or new to growing. For there to be a competition, there need to be competitors! To

this end, there will be a special prize for the most points earned by a Novice entrant (ie someone who has never won a first prize) so the more classes entered the more chance of the prize.

If you would like to enter but are worried about how to display your produce, please see the next Newsletter for Sarah Rashley's article which should answer all your questions.

This year the Flower Show is on Saturday 20th August. Schedules, including lists of the classes you can enter and entry forms will be available from The Village Stores from late April and are free of charge. Entering classes is free but there is a small charge to visit the show on the day.

The Flower Show is a wonderful village event and a chance to take a pride in all that we can produce. Whilst it's an enjoyable event to visit as a spectator, it's even more fun to see your beans or potatoes on display and maybe even win something (or be determined to try again next year). So if you're someone who's looked at the exhibits and thought 'Mine are as good as that', why not make this the year when you give it a try and if you've never been to the Flower Show before why not make your first visit as a participant?

## **EAST COKER PLAYERS**

The Players at the moment are in rehearsals for our May Play Evening.

We have chosen two one-act plays, 'Medieval Help Desk' by Damian Trasler, David Lovesy & Steve Clark for our young players to perform and 'Last Respect' by Colin Calvert for our adult members.

May Play Evening with Ploughman's Supper at East Coker Village Hall. Saturday 14 May at 7.30pm. Bring your own wine/soft drinks.

Tickets – Adults £7.50 Children – £5.00 – available from Vicky Moorhouse at The Village Stores from mid-April.

During this quarter of the year we also hope to attend the East Coker Village Fête have our annual BBQ and start preparations for the Pantomime.

If you would like to join (minimum age 8 yrs) and take part on the stage or help behind the scenes, with music, costume or scenery, please contact us.

For more details contact Anne Hartley 862060 Hazel Giddings 429163

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## **EAST COKER MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS**

The year has started well with the January coffee morning generating £600 for Help for Heroes. In February the event was also very successful and a total of £571 was collected for the RNLI and the March coffee morning for Cystic Fibrosis raised £305.

Unfortunately, due to a clash of dates with the Royal Wedding, we have had to cancel the April event so the next coffee morning will be on 27 May when the charity will be East Coker Scouts. Please come along to the Helyar Arms and give your support to this deserving local cause.

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313 Penny Marpole 863055

## COFFEE, CAKES AND LIFE-SAVING!

The regular Coffee and Cake gatherings have become an established part of the fabric of East Coker society. They are usually well supported and bring both valuable funds and recognition to a wide range of deserving charities. The Royal National Lifeboat Institution, or 'Lifeboats' as it is popularly known, needs little introduction but is, nevertheless, dependent on the continuing generosity of supporters to fund its voluntary work. Nowadays, this covers not only the risk and sacrifice of the lifeboat crews but extends also to beach supervision and rescue as well as less visible life-saving work. It was therefore a great delight that the February Coffee Morning for the RNLI was so well supported and raised the significant sum of £587.10.

Not only was the event well-supported but it was remarkable for the number and value of raffle prizes donated. On behalf not only of the life-boat crews, but also those rescued, sincere thanks to all who made it a success by baking cakes, donating prizes and generally organising the event. Thanks also to The Helyar Arms for providing the facility.

Peter Burrows, Chairman - Yeovil Branch RNLI

## EAST COKER BULK OIL PURCHASE

As I reported in my January note, fourteen of the fifty or so participants replied to the question of how many deliveries and when. The majority were in favour of filling our tanks in July / August when the price is lowest and topping up in January / February. This means I will not be co-ordinating an order this quarter, but will do so next quarter, probably in late July. In the meantime, of course, anything might happen to the oil price. I will contact everyone on my (blind) email list in late June / early July.

For anyone new to it, the scheme operates as follows:

- You let me know how much oil you require, either as an absolute number of litres or as a minimum amount but fill the tank. Please note that officialdom decrees a minimum order quantity of 500 litres.
- I also need any special instructions like access requirements. I specify a standard four-wheeled tanker (not a mini) anyway because of the narrow lanes and tight corners in the village. The delivery drivers are resourceful and assume they can find and fill a tank in the customer's absence. You must tell me if this is not the case (eg locked gates or tanks)
- I collate the requirements and get the best price and a delivery date for so many thousand litres in so many drops.
- I give the supplier a list of names, addresses, phone numbers, quantities and any special instructions.
- I let everyone know the price, which is the same for everyone irrespective of quantity. I endeavour to tell everyone the delivery date.
- The supplier delivers the oil and invoices everyone individually.
- You pay the supplier directly.

To participate or with any questions, contact me, preferably by email ([paulewards@waitrose.com](mailto:paulewards@waitrose.com)) or 01935 864413. Email makes it much easier to circulate information and I do not divulge email addresses.

Paul Edwards

## Young People

### EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

**Spring Jumble Sale** Saturday 2 April East Coker Village Hall from 2.00pm. REMEMBER WE WILL COLLECT. Contact Max Bugler 862186

Date for Autumn Jumble Sale: Saturday 15 October.

Coffee Morning: East Coker Scouts Jack Dudden & Ashley Glover are being supported in their World Scout Jamboree fund raising efforts by an East Coker Monthly Charity Coffee Morning to be held at the Helyar Arms on Friday 27 May from 10am. Please come along & enjoy coffee with our home made cakes whilst supporting your local 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.

Saturday 30 April

Saturday 28 May

Saturday 25 June



## **EAST COKER TEA-ROOMS**

Penny, Ann and the students welcome regular and new customers to The Tearooms (near the School). We are open every day from 9.00am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday throughout the year for Coffee and Cakes, Light Lunches and Tea and Cakes, serving good home-cooked food. Cream Teas are also available with prior notice.

We are closed Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays.

For more information visit our website [www.eastcokertearooms.co.uk](http://www.eastcokertearooms.co.uk) Telephone 863351

## **1<sup>ST</sup> WEST COKER BROWNIES AND RAINBOWS**

After a lot of reorganisation due to the extreme bad weather, the Brownies who were able to attend thoroughly enjoyed our Christmas treat, when we joined with 2<sup>nd</sup> West Coker Brownies for a trip to Cardiff to see 'The Nutcracker' at the St David's Theatre.

Both 1<sup>st</sup> West Coker Brownies and Rainbows have a busy term ahead. In addition to our usual meetings on Tuesday evenings, some of our Brownies and Rainbows joined other Brownies, Rainbows and Guides for a visit to the Octagon Theatre to see 'Snow White' in January.

This term the Brownies are working towards their World Badges, including the new World Thinking Day 2011 badge, as well as making Mothering Sunday crafts, celebrating Chinese New Year, St Patrick's Day, and St David's day. They are organising a Thinking Day evening, having a 'bring a friend' Bingo night, and will be finishing the term with an Easter theme night.

The Rainbows will be working towards their Roundabout Badges, and like the Brownies will be celebrating Chinese New Year, Thinking Day, and St Patrick's Day, making Mothering Sunday gifts and having an Easter theme night.

If you have a daughter 7-10 years old who would like to join 1<sup>st</sup> West Coker Brownies, please contact Jane LeFeuvre on 862774 or pop in to one of our meetings, held at the Scout and Guide Hut, Halves Lane, West Coker, Tuesdays 6.00pm – 7.30pm.

**NB:** 2<sup>nd</sup> West Coker Brownies is also held at the hut on Fridays 6.00pm – 7.30pm, (contact Rebecca Divall on 863105).

Rainbows: If you have a little girl 5-7 years old who would like to join 1<sup>st</sup> West Coker Rainbows, please contact Jane LeFeuvre on 862774 or pop in to one of our meetings, held at the Scout and Guide Hut, Halves Lane, West Coker, Thursdays 5.45pm – 7.00pm.

We are currently in a position to welcome additional helpers. If you are aged 14-70 yrs, and are interested in helping at any of our pack nights, either occasionally or regularly, please contact one of us on the above numbers.

Jane LeFeuvre (Guider in charge – 1<sup>st</sup> West Coker Brownies and Rainbows)

## **EAST COKER SCHOOL**

**Class 2** – we welcome back Mrs Hickey to school after her maternity leave. She will be sharing the teaching of Class 2 with Mrs Palfrey until the end of the school year.

### **Sports news**

Our Tag Rugby teams have been very successful lately. The year 6 team won the area competition and Year 5 were highly placed in the same event. The girls Netball team are through to the finals of the High 5s tournament. The latest round of cross-country races was held at Ham Hill and our runners were again on cracking form. Year 3/4 girls team came 1<sup>st</sup> overall, the year 3/4 boys team came 1<sup>st</sup>, the year 5/6 girls team came 10<sup>th</sup> and the year 5/6 boys team came 4<sup>th</sup>. Well done to all our pupils who participated.

### **Theatre visit**

The trip to see Wicked in June is going ahead after the enthusiastic response to the initial letter. We will be taking just over 100 KS2 children.

### **Streetfest**

A number of children in Year 3 and 4 have asked to join the classes for Streetdancing which will lead up to participation in Streetfest Yeovil 2011 in July. The training sessions begin next Monday and will run every week except for school holidays for 11 sessions.

### **Storytree**

**We have enjoyed** welcoming back Gloria Lawrence a story-teller/performer who has been leading workshops on diversity in a multi-cultural Britain, telling her own story through words and music. She was with us last Friday and will be working with the other classes this week.

*On a similar theme we hope to have a World week at the end of May (w/b 23) looking at aspects of multiculturalism and international awareness. As in the past, any help or expertise which parents and family members can offer will be very welcome; if you have experiences to share and will be available that week, please let the school know.*

### **South Somerset Music Spectacular**

The choir and orchestra will be performing at the annual Music Spectacular on Wednesday 6 April. Parents should be aware that tickets can be bought from the box office at Westlands.

### **PTFA**

Quiz Night on Friday 1 April and the Summer Fair on Friday 17 June

Term ends Thursday 7 April and begins Tuesday 26 April

May Day Holiday 2 May

Half Term begins Friday 27 May and ends Tuesday 7 June

Richard Powell, Head Teacher

### **EAST COKER PLAYGROUP**

There is much excitement at our playgroup. It seems nature is waking up and gathering momentum each day. Earlier in the month seeds were planted indoors and then the frosts reminded us not to get too carried away. The spring flowers are beautiful to see on the way to and from playgroup and the blossom on the tree outside the Pavilion is appearing. Soon we can go outside to play without our coats and wellies on. We will need our sun hats instead of our woolly hats. Our children at East Coker Playgroup are so fortunate with the country location. Immediate access onto the playing fields enables the group to witness at first hand the changes in the seasons and to experience the outdoors alongside the indoor play.

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 Early Years Entitlement (formerly 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 Annual Fundraising Summer Fair**

**Saturday 28 May**

**1.00pm to 4.00pm**

**The Pavilion, Longfurlong Lane, East Coker**

Please come along and support the Playgroup. There will be stalls, refreshments, bouncy castle, face-painting, raffle, Country Dancing, cakes and more. See you there.

**\*\* stop press \*\***

You can find us on our web site [www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk](http://www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk)

## The Churches

### ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

**What's Easter all about? Saturday 23 April – St George's Day – 10.00am – 12.30pm Are you aged 5+? Come and find out! There's something to celebrate and you'll have fun....**

Easter Craft Activities at St Michael's. A joint project with East Coker Christian Fellowship.

Contact Jackie Clough 850256 or Judith Chapman 422594

#### Services

Mothering Sunday 3 April	10.00am	Family Eucharist	RB
	6.00pm	Evensong	CH
Passion Sunday 10 April	8.00am	Holy Communion	TF
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist	DW
Palm Sunday 17 April	10.00am	Sung Eucharist	CJ
	6.00pm	Evensong	IW
Easter Sunday 24 April	10.00am	Sung Eucharist	CJ
	6.30pm	Evensong	MW
Sunday 1 May	10.00am	Family Leaflet	MW
	6.00pm	Evensong	
Sunday 8 May	8.00am	Holy Communion	TF
	10.00am	Sung Eucharist	DW
Sunday 15 May	10.00am	Family Service	CJ
	6.00pm	Evensong	
Sunday 22 May	10.00am	Sung Eucharist	
	6.00pm	Evensong	HG
Sunday 29 May	10.00am	Matins	
	6.00pm	Evensong	

I am delighted to say that our new Vicar and his wife will be joining us in June. Charles and Alison Hatton are from Salisbury and they are looking forward to living in the Vicarage and becoming part of East Coker. They will be moving in with their lovely spaniel George.

Charles and Alison have two daughters, Sarah and Charlotte. Both are currently at University so we may meet them in the holidays. Although Charles will be working closely with David Wilson, to begin with, he is keen to get to know us and our three churches. They are very excited about coming to East Coker and have already started helping with the re-decoration of the Vicarage!

I know we will make them feel very welcome here and hope they enjoy village life.

#### St Michael's Lent Project

The Social Responsibility Group is organising a collection of household items for The King's Place. Look out for a collecting box in the Church during April/Lent for much needed items such as – second-hand saucepans, storage jars, kitchen utensils, wall clocks, mirrors etc and larger items like new duvets and new pillows. The King's Place is part of Yeovil Christian Support Trust. It is a Charity Shop in Coronation Avenue on the Westfield Estate in Yeovil. It operates a referral system, in conjunction with recognised agencies in the town, and can supply free of charge, linen, clothing and items suitable for 'setting up home' packs to anyone who has genuine need. **Please help us make a good collection.**

Please contact Clare Phillips 863121 or Jacqueline Clough 850256

### ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SUTTON BINGHAM – 900<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

#### Services

Mothering Sunday 3 April	9.00am	Holy Communion	TF
Palm Sunday 17 April	11.30am	Sung Holy Communion	TF
Good Friday 22 April	11.00am	Litany	IW
Sunday 1 May	9.00am	Holy Communion	TF
Sunday 15 May	11.30am	Sung Holy Communion	TF

On Monday 14 March a visit to the Swan Theatre Charity Night raised £207 for Sutton Bingham. Our thanks to all who went.

Churchwardens Carol Blackmore 862192

Heather Snook 474138

## BIBLE MID-WEEK MEETINGS – A Series in Genesis 1-12 – 'God's Creative Call'

Wednesday 20 April 7.00pm – Justin Mote, North West Ministry Training Course – Genesis 6:1 – 7:10 The Flood

Wednesday 18 May 7.00pm – James Dudley-Smith – St John's, Yeovil – Genesis 8:1 – 9:17 The Rainbow

Wednesday 15 June 7.00pm – Brian Ruff formerly Christ Church, Westbourne – Genesis 11:-19 the Tower of Babel

Wednesday 20 July 7.00pm – Ed Moll St George's Wembdon – 12:1-9 Abram's Call

These meetings will take place in The East Coker Village Hall. Do come and join us and bring your friends with you. Refreshments after each meeting. For further information, please contact Edward Armitstead 862785 or Roy Hodder 862519

## ALL SAINTS' CLOSWORDH

### Services

Mothering Sunday 3 April 10.00am Family Service with flowers for the children to give to their mothers

Passion Sunday 10 April 6.30pm Evensong Geoff Doye

Good Friday 22 April 10.00am All-age Service hymns, prayers, reading and talk followed by 'Cold' Cross Buns

Easter Sunday 24 April 10.00am Family Communion Preacher and Celebrant, Canon Salway, followed by Easter Egg Hunt and coffee

Sunday 8 May 6.30pm Evensong Preacher, Mrs Sally McConnell

Sunday 15 May 10.00am Family Service

Sunday 22 May 9.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 12 June 6.30pm Pentecost Evensong

Sunday 19 June 10.00am Pet Service In the Churchyard if fine – in the Church if wet.

### Bells at Closwordh

We now have 5 people learning to ring bells from Closwordh with an age range of 11-70. If there is anybody who would like to join the group please contact Monica or Lesley Lindsay. At present practice is at East Coker on a Friday night. I should like to thank all the bell ringers of East Coker who are teaching us. Thanks for all your time and energy. Monica 862834

## EAST COKER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, BURTON LANE

**Weekly Meetings** Sundays 11.00am. 2nd Sunday of the month 11.00am – Family Service. Other services as announced. All are welcome to all of our services.

**Coffee Stop** The Hall is open every Wednesday from 11.00am until 1.00pm for coffee and tea. Everyone is welcome to come along and it is simply meant to be a place where friends can get together for a chat. There is no charge for the refreshments.

We also run a Home Group for anyone interested in discussing the Christian faith and there is a youth group meeting midweek for those between 18 and 30. During Lent we have been taking part in the Lent discussion groups organised by David Wilson and Monica Whipp.

**Little Wheelers** is a mother and toddlers group meeting in the East Coker Village Hall on a Tuesday morning from 10.30am until 12.00noon.

Kevin Chapman is available from Tuesday to Friday. He can be contacted on 07812726853 or 01935 422594 or email [ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto: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.

*'Unto Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen'* Ephesians, chapter 3, verses 20 and 21.

## Village News

### WESSEX MORRIS MEN

The Wessex Morris Men will return to dance in East Coker on the evening of Monday 18 July from 7:30pm at the Helyar Arms. All welcome.

Paul Chesterman, Deputy Squire, Wessex Morris Men

### SOUTH SOMERSET CHORAL SOCIETY

Richard Barrell's choice for his retirement concert with the SSCS, whose Musical Director he has been since 1989, includes well-known works from the classical canon, as well as a movement from his own 'Wings of the Morning', with mezzo-soprano Becky Keenan-Barrelle. The stately progress towards the burst of choral sound that is Handel's 'Zadok the Priest' leads into the optimistic energy of the ever-popular Vivaldi Gloria, and the concert concludes with the mystery and drama of Mozart's glorious requiem. Soloists are Penelope Appleyard (soprano) Olivia Barry (alto) Mitesh Khatri (tenor) Chi Hoe Mak (bass).

**Requiem – Mozart**  
**Zadok the Priest – Handel**  
**Gloria – Vivaldi**  
**Wings of the Morning – Barrell**

Thursday 14 April 2011, 7.30pm – St Mary's, Chard  
Friday 15 April 2011, 7.30 pm – The Minster, Ilminster

Tickets £10 from The Minster Pharmacy, Ilminster; Hooked on Books, Chard; Tyrie's Newsagent, Crewkerne; and from members of the Society.

Telephone bookings 01935 850483 or 01460 30305 [www.southsomersetchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.southsomersetchoralsociety.org.uk)

**Watercolour Painting  
Techniques Course  
East Coker Village Hall  
6 Week Course  
Starts 4 May 2011  
Wednesdays  
09:30 to 12:00noon**



A successful course giving the opportunity to learn how to both achieve and paint a range of Watercolour Techniques. Develop your painting skills using subject matter to include Skyscape, Seascape and Landscape as part of a highly structured taught course.

West Dorset based artist and experienced watercolour tutor Lynda Connolly is holding this 6 week course at East Coker Village Hall. Suitable for Absolute Beginners and Improvers. Learn new or recap on watercolour techniques to widen your ability and understanding of this superb painting media. Achieve flat, graduated and variegated washes, wet in wet, wet next wet, dry brush and much more. Group is restricted to 10 places. Successful independent Watercolour classes and courses currently running across West Dorset, East Devon and South Somerset.

To find out more please telephone (01305 871178) or email [paintwatercolour@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:paintwatercolour@hotmail.co.uk)

### WESTLAKE SURGERY

Dr John Cox is going to be taking a Sabbatical. He will be away for 5 weeks from 11 April 2011 and will return on 16 May 2011.

During this period Dr Malcolm Hillier will be his locum, but there will not be an Odcombe Surgery during this time.

## STAMPS FOR C.L.I.C.

Thank you to the residents of East Coker for their used stamps. We took two huge bags full to the C.L.I.C. (Cancer and Leukaemia in Childhood) Charity shop just after Christmas. These are then reused to make money for this charity which funds vital research.

Please keep taking them into The Stores. Vicki will accept them and Lesley Lindsay will take them to the shop.

Micky Hall

## SECRET WORLD

Secret World is a charity that specialises in the rescue, rehabilitation and eventual release of Britain's orphaned, injured and sick wildlife and is the only 24/7 service in the South West. Last year, we were able to help around 4000 sick, injured or orphaned creatures.

The charity was founded in 1992 to support the work being done here with wildlife and now employs a qualified Vet Nurse and trained animal-carers, but none of this work would be possible without the dedication of over 600 volunteers. Once the charity was open to the public all year round, but now only opens its doors to the public 5 times a year.

The first time that the centre will be open this year is over the Easter weekend, 22 – 25 April. This is the **'Badger Bonanza Wild Weekend'** and is the only time of year that the public get chance to see these beautiful creatures up close. This is when the young badgers are being bottle fed at the centre, which is the largest badger cub rearing unit in the country. Visitors will be able to view some of the casualty and rehabilitation pens via the Secret World CCTV system. Ferret racing, a play area, beehive observation tank, wildlife education tent, animal talks and displays are also a part of any visit. This weekend provides a fantastic visitor experience by allowing the general public to see some of the round-the-clock work that goes on at the rescue centre.

### 2011 Open Weekends:

Badger Bonanza – 22 – 25 April

Wildlife Babies – 28 – 30 May

Nature's Hunters – 25 and 26 June

Tortoises & Hedgehogs – 30 and 31 July

Animal Bonanza – 27 – 29 August

Healing Weekend – 8 – 10 July



A chance to see these beautiful creatures up close



Learn more about the work that we do here at Secret World.

Helen Dart

Fundraising Co-ordinator, Secret World Wildlife Rescue, :01278 783250 [www.secretworld.org](http://www.secretworld.org)

## WILD LIFE

I was amazed to find a dark splotch on my house wall in February. At least 2 inches across at the base. Further inspection and help from friends and the Web proved it to be a Winter Moth. The first I have ever seen and so surprising after the bitter Winter.

Monica

## RAINFALL DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2011

It was Sir Rex Harrison, something of a linguistic bully, who imparted to Eliza Doolittle the useful information that the rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain. Not unnaturally, Eliza took some time to absorb this news before proving herself capable of conveying it to a wider audience.

What is pretty certain, however, is that wherever the rain has stayed – Spain, Bolzano or Thermopylae – it has been in the last three months a good long way from East Coker.

January began quite damply, with rain on six of the first ten days, to a total depth of 2½ins (6.35cm) January is usually a wet month, but the next three weeks saw sporadic rainfall to a month's total of only 3½ins (8.90cm) rather below the month's average over the past fifteen years. Measurable rainfall in February fell on ten days and made just above 2¼ins (5.72cm). Writing on 19 March, for a press date of 23 March, measurable rainfall has fallen on only two days, ½in (.57cm) on the 13 March and ¾in on 18 March, making a 1½in for the month so far. The year's total is thus a fraction below 6½ins (16.5cm) and my bookie says that the last ten days of March will either be much wetter than hitherto this year or else stone dry. The daffodils apart, spring flowers are still waiting for a good soaking.

Clive Bingley

### IT'S CHILDSPLAY – SUNDAY 1 May 2011 WALK FROM EAST COKER FOR THE CHILDREN'S HOSPICE

Somerset's Children's Hospice SW, based at Charlton Farm, Wraxall, south of Bristol, provides dedicated care to life-limited children and support for their families. Running costs for this facility are £3m per year and only 11% of this comes from statutory funding. The balance of £2.67m has to be raised annually by fundraising.

The ROTARY Clubs of Yeovil, Yeo Vale and Sherborne have been regular contributors to this organisation, and in 2011 are again making a big effort to raise a substantial amount through their 'IT's CHILDSPLAY' walkabout on Sunday 1 May as part of a combined effort throughout the SW.



**Last year, walkers from East Coker played a significant part in helping Somerset's Rotary Clubs raise over £20,000 through 'IT's CHILDSPLAY'. Let's make 2011 even better!**

Everyone can help this very worthwhile event as a participant or sponsor. Participants in the Yeovil area can walk as far or as short a distance as they like and start from wherever it is most convenient. All we ask is that you finish at Yeovil Country Park (Nine Springs, by Goldenstones swimming pool) between 12 noon and 4.00pm and that each participant raises a minimum of £10.00 and brings this to the Finish. There are very attractive walks right on the doorstep ideal for families, dog walkers, groups, etc.

All competitors get a free 'IT'S CHILDSPLAY' T-shirt', a Completion Certificate and the satisfaction that they have made a difference. Refreshments will be available at the finishing line. Unavailable on that day? Then please help by sponsoring the event.

For sponsorship and registration forms please contact any one of the local Rotary Club members or specifically: Roger Crouch 863061 Peter Burrows 862218 Derek Marpole 863055

If you would like to walk (about 3 miles) with a friendly group of local folk, then register with one of the above to meet at East Coker Village Hall at 10.30am on 1 May for orange juice/bacon roll/coffee to get you started on a suggested route. Shorter walks are available in the park itself.

### 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](mailto:sarahpalmer66@hotmail.com). More information about SOL can be found on their website: [www.somersetorganiclink.co.uk](http://www.somersetorganiclink.co.uk)

## **EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL.**

This will be the last newsletter that the present East Coker Parish Council will be writing for the Society. The deadline for application to become a Parish Councillor will probably have passed before this Newsletter is printed, but hopefully there will be a strong contingent to make-up the 13 strong committee for East Coker (including two from Wraxall Ward). New, enthusiastic councillors, who are practical and have an open-minded and rational outlook on what is happening in the community, will be needed to move forward with a modern rural Parish Council that prides itself on its integrity and common sense. It is not a single-minded, one agenda job!

Many things have been implemented in the time of the present committee which, hopefully, will have been beneficial to every part of the parish. They cannot all be listed, but the extension and improvements to the facilities at the Pavilion must be top of that list. It was a momentous task, both financially and for those who put so much into the project.

The Pavilion site, from the car park to the play area, from the pitches to the interiors, are now a credit to the village and offer excellent recreational space that all can enjoy. Please respect the effort that has gone into this, and always keep it as clean and tidy as it is now.

The implementation of the Lengthsman service to East Coker and neighbouring villages has also been a major step forward in village maintenance. East Coker led this introduction and Roy Hodder, who has managed the scheme so efficiently, must be especially thanked for all his hard work.

Thank you to all who turned out on Saturday 5 March to 'litter-pick' the village. It was a very successful morning, and particular thanks go to Bridget Sugg and her family, who organised the event and provided refreshments.

Recycling has moved on to weekly house-to-house collections and plastic and cardboard are now included. The Council has asked us to remind you that tops must be removed from both glass and plastic bottles and containers.

## **EAST COKER PRESERVATION TRUST**

East Coker Preservation Trust continues to pursue its aims, which are to research, celebrate, educate, and inform about the full range of heritage assets that East Coker and the surrounding area possess, including their agricultural importance, so that these are appropriately considered and preserved for future generations.

Do see a recent piece on the cultural history of the village and why it is important and loved worldwide, at the end of this newsletter.

An effectively worded petition is currently being prepared, with the help of the T.S. Eliot Society, which it is expected will generate many thousands of signatures and make it obvious that the heritage of East Coker and its surrounds is of universal value that should be seen as a great asset to the community.

We still hope that the council will accept the Trust's offer to sit down and discuss the latest proposals for mass housing between Yeovil and the Coker villages, Barwick and Stoford, which are causing widespread international heritage concern. The council has so far said they won't do this, however.

The Trust is currently preparing further expert technical submissions to the council on transport and population issues, to add to the other technical submissions it made in December 2010.

It is hoped that the resulting reports as well as links to the petition will be posted on the Trust's internet blog site by 7 April or soon after, which may help people who wish to write to the council themselves on transport or population growth assumptions (the deadline is 14 April 2011). For the time being the web address remains [www.eastcokerpreservationtrust.blogspot.com](http://www.eastcokerpreservationtrust.blogspot.com) and more information and links are now being put on there.

The next consideration of the housing proposals will be in June 2011, when the newly elected district councillors for 'Area South' meet for a workshop on the proposals.

It is vital that the residents of East Coker and the surrounding neighbourhoods should continue to make their views individually known to the relevant officials and public representatives, and to continue to ask any questions they have. It is also vital they should give the Trust their wholehearted support. This will enable the Trust to continue ensuring that proper independent expert opinions are brought to bear on the process as necessary.



## T.S. Eliot Modern Poetry Day

On 29 May 2011 the Bank Holiday Sunday, the East Coker Preservation Trust, in conjunction with the Poetry Society, will host its inaugural **T.S. Eliot Modern Poetry Day** in the gardens of Naish Priory from 2.00pm until sun down. There will be the opportunity to make a donation on the door. Do bring a picnic. We have a great programme of speakers from the world of drama, academia, poetry and prose – some famous and distinguished names including our own Trevor Peacock! There will be readings of Eliot as well as other relevant and exciting pieces, and there will be talks from important figures in the literary world, including Jim McCue, who recently edited Eliot's letters and is engaged in editing a new three volume collection of Eliot's poems with Christopher Ricks.

## HERITAGE IN EAST COKER

Like Stratford-upon-Avon or Grasmere, the village of East Coker in Somerset, UK will forever be associated with one poet and with the profoundest sense of Englishness. For East Coker, in addition to being the poet's final place of rest, is the name T. S. Eliot gave to the second of his *Four Quartets*, the sequence of poems which crowned his career.

Written in London shortly before the Battle of Britain, *East Coker* is Eliot's tribute to a way of life that the civilized world was fighting to protect. Ancestors of his had lived in the village from the 15th century, his family leaving for America in 1667. His return to it more than 250 years later not only had deep personal associations, but stands in his writing for the sense of history itself, glimpsed as "the light falls across the open field" or heard like "laughter in the garden . . . not lost".

His descriptions of the tranquillity of "the village, in the electric heat, hypnotised" have made East Coker even more important than Rupert Brooke's Grantchester as a place of poetry, known and loved worldwide yet undisturbed — existing in and out of time.

*East Coker* is an affirmation of the identity and values of a people, and writing it was part of Eliot's personal war effort. In another poem, he wrote of defence of "the lanes and the streets" for the sake of "the past and the future generations of our kin and of our speech". But if the present development plans are not stopped, this generation will have betrayed our past and future generations, and all that is left of the village that inspired the imagination will be the poem. T. S. Eliot is the UK's favourite poet (BBC poll 2010), and was the most prominent poet of the 20th century. He wrote one of the most formidable poems in English, *The Waste Land*, but was so revered that one of his literary lectures was attended by 17,000 people. As poet, publisher, editor and critic, he was a central figure in literary London for forty years, and was afforded a funeral service in Westminster Abbey, yet he was a reticent, meditative man, who chose to be buried in the church of an unspoilt golden ham-stone village in Somerset.

East Coker is also the birthplace in 1657 of William Dampier, the first Englishman to set foot in Australia. Hydrographer, explorer, writer, and naturalist, he was a fundamental inspiration to the birth of Western science and English exploration, to Banks, Cook, and Darwin. The English literary genres of travel writing and adventure novels owe much to him, and he brought over 1,000 new words into the English language.

Dampier was feted by his fellow scientists in the Royal Society and is a highly important figure to the history of science itself, being the pioneer of zoology. He named and was the first to describe Shark Bay, the UNESCO World Heritage Site in Western Australia listed for its importance to natural science. The house where he was born, Hymerford House, (listed Grade I), still stands and can easily be viewed from the road into North Coker.

The Coker manors were at the centre of the seafaring world during the centuries of exploration and the rise of the English nation, being renowned as the site of the highest quality flax cloth production available. This was due to the richness of their arable land, which is still today categorised Grade 1 - most versatile. The highest grade of sail cloth used in the Royal Navy, including that used by HMS Victory, Nelson's flagship, at the Battle of Trafalgar, was referred to as "Coker Cloth".

The area's maritime and military procurement history dates from the 13th to the 16th Centuries when the Coker Manors were held by the De Courtenay Earls of Devon who were close royal kinsmen of the Plantagenet and Tudor kings, especially Edward III, Richard II and Henry IV, V and VIII. Then the most powerful nobles in south-west England, as High Admirals of the West Seas the De Courtenays were the supreme naval commanders and had responsibility for the defence of the South Coast of England and transport during the Hundred Years War, into Normandy and Aquitaine. Their 'house' of succession is referred to at the beginning of T.S. Eliot's poem.

The De Courtenay family's architectural legacy stands in the Coker area, including the mid-15th Century

Coker Court (Grade I), the early 15th Century West Coker Manor (Grade I), and the mid and late 14th Century Naish Priory (Grade I). Naish Priory, in Gothic Perpendicular style by William Wynford, is the particular legacy of the most important generations of the De Courtenay family. It was owned and expanded from 1393 by William de Courtenay, the Archbishop of Canterbury who defended both the traditional role and independence of the church in England, and was pivotal in mediating between Richard II and his various challengers, including Henry IV, who were all close De Courtenay blood relatives.

In the late 15<sup>th</sup> Century, having lost his two immediate forebear Earls in battles of the Wars of the Roses on the Lancastrian side, the following De Courtenay Earl of Devon married the daughter of Edward IV of York, causing political problems for his descendants, who were from time to time drawn into suspicion of Yorkist plots and contention for the throne. The Coker manors reverted to the crown under both Henry VII and Henry VIII after two successive De Courtenay family beheadings and restorations, after which the male line of the De Courtenays died out. It is this history of succession, as well as that in his own family, to which T.S. Eliot refers in the first line of *East Coker*.

The Coker manors were subsequently granted by the crown to Archdeacon Helyar, Elizabeth I's personal chaplain. Helyar's descendant at Coker Court in East Coker was the patron and sponsor of William Dampier's early life, education and expeditions.

Prior to the Norman Conquest the Coker manors had been held by Gytha, mother of King Harold, and a Saxon golden horse jewel from that period of direct royal ownership has recently been unearthed.

Uninvestigated remains of two large Roman Villas lie under fields to the east and the west of Naish Priory, which itself sits on top of a spring known as King's Springs and Peter's Hole, that is equidistant between the two villas.

The setting and context of the historic and cultural fabric of East Coker is currently coherent and unspoilt. Future generations would not regards ours well if this were to change. Literature has its places in the world which should never be lost. **East Coker Preservation Trust – March 2011**

### **30MPH SPEED LIMIT**

The South Somerset District Council and the Parish Council have agreed a 30mph limit after trying for the past 50 years! It will cover the area of North Coker to the Cemetery and now we have a 'foot in the door' it is just a matter of time before the whole village is covered. We must find the money for signs, posts, erection and legal costs which is approximately £4500.

If you wish to know more about the above, or wish to pledge an amount, please contact Rod and Mary Glover 862463

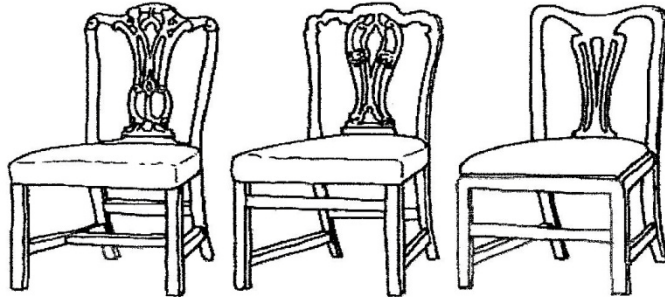
### **NEXT ISSUE**

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in July 2011. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or e-mail l.lindsay@eastcoker.com or to The Stores, East Coker by Wednesday 22 June 2011

## VILLAGE DIARY: APRIL 2011 – JULY 2011

Sat 02 Apr	Scouts – Jumble Sale	East Coker Hall	2.00pm
Mon 4 Apr	Time to Share – Secret World	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Tues 05 Apr	Evening Reading Group		
Wed 06 Apr	Wine Circle – French Evening	East Coker Hall	8.00pm
Wed 06 Apr	Daytime Reading Group		
Sat 09 Apr	Wine Circle – Theme Party	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Mon 18 Apr	Time to Share – Easter Bazaar	East Coker hall	2.30pm
Thurs 14 Apr	Gardening Club – Mary Benger	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Thurs 14 Apr	Somerset Choral Society	St Mary's, Chard	7.30pm
Fri 15 Apr	Somerset Choral Society	Ilminster	7.30pm
Thurs 21 Apr	W I – Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 23 Apr	East Craft Activities	St Michael's Church	10.00am - 12.30pm
Sat 23 Apr	St George's Day		
Tues 26 Apr	Poetry Group – Julia Copus	The Helyar Arms	7.30pm
Thurs 28 Apr	W I - A.C.W.W.	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 29 Apr	The Royal Wedding		
Sat 30 Apr	Scouts' Newspaper Collection	Near the School	8.30am - 10.30am
Sun 01 May	Childsplay – Walk	East Coker Hall	10.30am
Tues 03 May	Evening Reading Group		
Wed 04 May	Daytime Reading Group		
Wed 04 May	Wine Circle – Cider	East Coker Hall	8.00pm
Mon 09 May	Time to Share – Mr Tinney	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Thurs 12 May	Gardening Club – Katherine Crouch	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 14 May	The Players – May Play Evening	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Tues 17 May	East Coker Society – AGM	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Mon 23 May	Time to Share – Short Mat Bowls	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Thurs 26 May	W I – Yetminster Irish Dancers	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 27 May	Coffee Morning – East Coker Scouts	The Helyar Arms	10.00am - 12 noon
Sat 28 May	Scouts' Newspaper Collection	Near the School	8.30am - 10.30am
Sat 28 May	The Playgroup – Summer Fair	The Pavilion	1.00pm -4.00pm
Sun 29 May	T S Eliot – Modern Poetry Day	Naish Priory	2.00pm - Sundown
Wed 01 June	Daytime Reading Group		
Mon 06 June	Time to Share - Outing		
Tues 07	Evening Reading Group		
Wed 08 June	Wine Circle – AGM & Wine-tasting	East Coker Hall	8.00pm
Thurs 09 June	Gardening Club – Joy Wallis	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 11 June	RBL – Poppy Tea Party	The Manor, West Coker	2.30pm - 5.00pm
Fri 17 June	East Coker School – Summer Fair		6.30pm
Mon 20 June	Time to Share – Continnence Advisor	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
<b>Wed 22 June</b>	<b>Copy for July Newsletter</b>		
Sat 25 June	Scouts' Newspaper Collection	Near the School	8.30am - 10.30am
Thurs 30 June	W I - Birthday Outing		
Fri 01 July	Action Medical Research – Cream Teas		
Sat 02 July	East Coker Village Fête	East Coker Hall	12 noon – 4.00pm
Mon 04 July	Time to Share – Favourite Hymns	St Michael's Church	2.30pm

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