

East Coker Society Newsletter



April 2013

Free Issue No 150

Chair: John Sugg	863435	
Newsletter Editor: Lesley Lindsay	862868	l.lindsay@eastcoker.com
Secretary: Sarah Owen	862218	
Treasurer: Keith Helliard	863700	

East Coker Society News

This edition of East Coker Society's Newsletter is the 150th, which marks our 38th year of keeping all parishioners up-to-date with community news. Lesley deserves a medal for chasing the contributors, editing the content and co-ordinating the printing and distribution of these free issues over some of this period. Martin Wells and the stalwart team of distributors ensure that these quarterly editions reach all those homes which continue to receive hard copies.

We are most grateful to all those residents who have signed up for emailed distribution or are accessing the Newsletter on our website as this not only helps to reduce our increasing paper and printing costs, but helps to save a few trees too!

East Coker has an enviable community spirit. We are so often reminded of this by visitors, who remark on our variety of facilities, clubs and organisations for a range of interests and ages. Not a week passes without a number of events taking place in the village. Many of these raise significant sums for worthy causes. There is always scope for new activities, so please let us know if you would like to use the Newsletter to foster new ideas.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The East Coker Society AGM will be held on Tuesday 7 May 2013 at 7.30pm in the Dampier Room, East Coker Hall. All parishioners are automatically members of the Society, so you are most welcome to attend.

'DISCOVER EAST COKER' – WALKING PACK

A new 'Discover East Coker' pack which includes photographs, details about places of interest, a detailed map and five fully researched walks supplied in a plastic wallet is available for £2 from the following outlets:

East Coker Village Store	The Forester's Arms
East Coker Tea Rooms	The Helyar Arms
Goose Slade Farm Shop	The Yeovil Court Hotel
Butchers & Post Office, West Coker	Yeovil Tourist Information Centre
St Michael's Church Bookstall	Cartgate Tourist Information Centre

We hope residents and visitors will use this guide to explore our beautiful parish.

Sarah Owen

VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY – PLEASE USE IT!

The 2013 Diary is now at the Stores, East Coker, and can be found in the shop – please ask. **Please put forthcoming village events in the Diary to avoid dates clashing.** Thank you.

ADVANCE NOTIFICATION of East Coker Society's Winter Fayre – Saturday 16 November 2013 at 2.00pm.

Village Clubs and Organisations

EAST COKER VILLAGE QUIZ 2013

The Eighth Annual Village Quiz was held in East Coker Hall on 9 March. Twenty-one teams of eight competed in an evening of questions which tested their knowledge on subjects ranging from 'Haute Quisine' to TV Sitcoms. In the interval, an excellent fish-and-chip supper was enjoyed by all.

Once again The Early Train team was victorious, with the Poetry Group and The Neighbours as joint runners-up.

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 £908. This will be given to the charity nominated by last year's winners – Macmillan Cancer Support.

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 Saturday 8 March 2014.

Martyn and Cherry Sowerbutts 863313

TIME TO SHARE

Time To Share – Still having fun on Monday afternoons at the East Coker Hall. Come along and see for yourself. We have such a full, varied and interesting programme. 2.30pm - 4.00pm every other Monday. For more information contact Sandra Snelling, 862162.

Dates

Monday 8 April – Book and Poetry Readings – Members

Monday 22 April – Talk on Guide Dogs for the Blind

Monday 13 May – RNLI – Talk by local expert, Peter Burrows

Monday 20 May – Knit and Natter – Members

Monday 3 June – All day Outing to Ottery St. Mary and Sidmouth – Members £9 Non-members £10

Monday 17 June – Keep Fit with Beryl Snadden

Monday 1 July – Lois Crisp's eagerly awaited Garden Party at Nash Lane. The Club's birthday to be celebrated too!

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER

We are pleased to say the RBL in East & West Coker, Hardington and East Chinnock is continuing our present membership at 105, which for a village branch is excellent. However, like the Legion as a whole, our membership is ageing and we must look to the future. If I can be so bold as to ask, please consider becoming a member (you do not have to be ex-service) or a Poppy Appeal volunteer/visitor. The present subscription is £13.00 per annum. No, you don't get an M&S voucher etc. but you do get the satisfaction of knowing you are helping our Service Family past and present through some very difficult times.

The Legion has been a membership charity since 1921 and as our older veterans slip away we are needed as much today as we were all those years ago. The veterans of today's conflicts are returning with mental and physical injuries which were untreatable during WW1 and WW2.

Please consider being a member or a volunteer, contacts are listed below. It's a lovely feeling when somebody says "thanks for what you do" or "thank-you for calling".

Events – Branch Annual Cheese & Wine Evening. Friday 26 April – 7.30pm, East Coker Hall. We have a Poppy Appeal update from the County Fundraiser plus presentations. Entrance is £5 inclusive of refreshments and first glass of wine/soft drink plus the usual Draw.

Thank you all for your support. Secretary Marilyn Smith 863944 – Membership Caroline Field 863271

David Holland, Chairman 86278

EAST COKER READING GROUP

We have two groups, meeting once a month. The evening group (currently 9 members) meets in individual members' homes for about two hours (usually) on the first Tuesday of each month. The daytime group (currently 5 members) meets for about one hour in the East Coker Tea Rooms on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month (but meetings' dates do vary to accommodate members' other commitments). As the Library now charges Reading Groups a monthly fee, we, in turn, charge a fee of 50p to each member.

If you are interested in joining either group or wish to have more details of the books we read and what we do, please contact Kevin Chapman on 07812726853 or 422594 or email ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk

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ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

Many thanks to those of you who supported our Diamond Diva Lunch in October. A great time was had by all and we made £2,250 profit from this event. Although this was meant to be a one-off to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Charity, due to its success we will be holding another 'Diva Lunch' on 11 October 2013. Further details will be available in due course.

Our local Cream Tea delivery will take place this year on Friday 5 July. We can make deliveries to anyone in the village, or any businesses in the Yeovil, Sherborne, Crewkerne and Martock areas on that day. We also have teams delivering to businesses in the Bridport, Beaminster, Dorchester and Taunton areas on different dates.

We are also expanding our overnight Parcelforce deliveries to businesses anywhere in the country with a minimum order of 10 packages.

Further details from Jane Donnelly, 478409 or email jane@yeovilfab.com, or visit our website www.action.org.uk/ctdirect

EAST COKER SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

The Bowls Club meets every Tuesday Evening 7.30pm - 9.30pm and Friday afternoons 2.30pm - 4.30pm in the East Coker Hall.

We are a friendly club and are looking for experienced and new players to join us. Tuition can be given to those wishing it, and bowls can be provided for your initial practice. Why not come and see for yourself. There is no age limit for adults.

We also have a junior section, and are looking for young players of any age up to 18.

For information regarding the junior section, please contact Mervyn Westlake 863227. For other information, call George Dudden 864222.

D Farrant – Club Chairman

EAST COKER MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

The year has started well with the January coffee morning generating £287 for Help for Heroes. In February, the event was also very successful and a total of £398 was collected for the RNLI. The March event was held a week earlier than normal so as not to clash with Good Friday, and £318 was raised in support of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

The forthcoming events will be for:

- 'Contact' on 26 April
- Yeovil Rotary Club for 'Shelter Box' on 31 May
- 'Ups and Downs' – South West' on 28 June

Please come along to the Forester's Arms and give your support to these deserving causes.

Many thanks to Charlotte and all the staff at the Forester's for the support they give to these popular village get-togethers.

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313 Penny Marpole 863055

Great Support for RNLI Coffee Morning

Over 70 locals and supporters of the RNLI came to the Coffee Morning at the Forester's Arms in February. The enthusiasm and friendliness of those attending was a tribute both to their charitable nature and the high regard in which this lifesaving service is held. 2012 saw RNLI lifeboats launch 8,321 times around the coast of the UK and Republic of Ireland, rescuing 7,912 people. Meanwhile, the charity's lifeguards responded to 14,519 incidents and helped 16,414 people on our beaches. The RNLI's Flood Rescue Team also had their busiest year on record, deploying 12 times to flooding incidents inland.

Thank you to everyone who attended, gave donations, baked cakes and/or donated prizes for the raffle. The sum of £398.30 was raised by the event. The friendliness and generous support from the Forester's Arms is much appreciated, both by the RNLI and by those who attend these regular coffee morning events.

Peter Burrows, Chairman, Yeovil & District Branch RNLI

EAST COKER PLAYERS

East Coker Players are proud to present two plays on Friday 17 and Saturday 18 May 2013 at 7.30pm in the East Coker Hall.

The young players will perform 'Beauty and the Beast' by Geoff Bamber, and the adults players will perform 'Bill & Ben the Twilight Men' by Frank Gibbons. Both plays are being directed by Ian White. Tickets will be available from Vicky at the Village Store from mid-April. Adults £5.00. Children £4.00.

Beauty and the Beast is a humorous play telling a traditional story. The young players who performed in Mother Goose have been joined by Rosienne and Lilia for their first play as a group.

The adult play will see the return of some familiar faces in a one act comedy set in a village pub.

We look forward, with you, to seeing the end result of many weeks' rehearsing and line learning.

At the end of January, members of the Players joined with many others at St Michael's Church to celebrate the life of Don White. We will remember his performances on stage, especially with the Jug Band and the total commitment behind the scenes over many years. A true gentleman, who will be sadly missed by us all.

Preparations for this year's Pantomime have already begun. It will be performed on Friday 29 November and Saturday 30 November 2013. If you would like to join us for this production, please contact us as we read through the script in June and begin rehearsals the first week of September.

We are currently looking for anyone who may be able to paint some new backdrop scenes. If you think you may be able to help, give us a call.

Anne Hartley 862060. Hazel Giddings 429163.

EAST COKER HALL CHARITABLE TRUST – NOTICE OF AGM TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 20 MAY 2013

The Annual General Meeting of the Trust will be held on Monday 20 May 2013 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 two weeks before the meeting.

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

EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

Another three months have whizzed by. We started the year with a talk by Alison Charles, ably assisted by Nigel, who took us on a trip to Hungary in search of butterflies – what beautiful scenery, flowers and, of course, butterflies. A wonderful fillip to the sodden English January. On to February (which thankfully did *not* fill the dyke!) and a talk entitled 'Grandma's Garden' by Yvonne Bell on the Edwardian way of life and a time when famous gardens were created by Lutyens, Jekyll and Marwood, many of them now known of internationally (Hestercombe being one of them). In March, we went again in pursuit of folklore with an amusing and informative talk given by Mike Burks of The Gardens Group. If you should happen to spy, at dead of night, naked persons digging their gardens or planting by the lunar phases, if your hitherto un-pruned roses are suddenly pruned, your parsley disappears, or you are recommended potatoes for your camp – it is most likely to be an East Coker Gardening Club member!!

The plant stall opened again at our March meeting. We will have a stall at the St Michael's Spring Fair and Plant Sale on Saturday 11 May at Hope House (formerly Bubspool House), when we hope to have a good variety of plants for sale.

The members' competition this year will be to grow a fabulous begonia (the plants and growing medium kindly supplied by The Gardens Group). The judging for this normally takes place at the August meeting – just in time for the East Coker Flower Show!

Trips are planned in May to Picket Lane Nursery at South Perrott, in June to the Larmer Tree at Tollard Royal, in July to Wilton House, Salisbury, and in August to Newton Surmaville House and to Highgrove House. As usual, in April there will be a short holiday, which will be based this year in Torquay.

If you are not already a member, why not join us for one of our evenings? Always an enjoyable, sociable evening, with the added bonus that we learn something new each month. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, commencing at 7.30pm in the East Coker Hall, Halves Lane.

For further information, please contact Helen Styles 862447 or Stan Shayler 420291.

Programme for April - August:

11 April	In pursuit of Plants – Lady Skelmersdale
9 May	So you think you know Gladiolus? – Great Western Gladiolus
13 June	Aquilegias – David Hitchcock
11 July	Bees in a Domestic Garden – Margaret O'Neill
8 August	Club competition and History of the Cottage Garden – Neil Lovesey

EAST COKER 400 CLUB

The results of the Winter draw £100 Mr C Bingley; £50 Mr J Bryan; £40 Mrs R Kilbee; £30 Mr J Mornement; £20 Mrs G Mead; £15 Mrs H Snook; £10 Mrs B Chatwin; £10 Mrs L Evans.

The 400 Club has been pleased to send a cheque for £250 to the Flying Colours Appeal – Yeovil District Hospital.

If anyone would like to join the 400 Club, the annual subs are £20, payable quarterly by Banker's Order.

Please contact Gloria Mead 862364; Mary Ashley 862263; Arthur Rees 862828; Mike Weston 862472.

EAST COKER FLOWER SHOW AND WINE FESTIVAL

The show will be on 17 August 2013. Schedules will be available soon, we have some new classes:

Photography - Over the Gate; Activity picture; Steps/stairs; Weather; Flowers; East Coker (4 photos).

Floral Art - Shades of Green; Small arrangement (9 inches); Tea Party; Seaside arrangement; Arrangement in a container of your choice.

Home Craft - Carrot Cake; Chocolate sponge with butter cream filling - no icing; Round of shortbread; 6 Bread Rolls; 4 Flapjacks; Fruit pie.

Crafts - Handmade Cushion; Cross Stitch; Knitted item; Bag.

Thank you for your support and we hope you all have a wonderful day.

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EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

If you enjoy a good wine and would like to further your knowledge and experience of this fine beverage, and if you would like to benefit from the social intercourse that goes with it, then East Coker Wine Circle is the group for you. Why not join us? We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at the East Coker Hall at 8.00pm, unless otherwise stated, and it will cost you only a £12 annual subscription. You would be welcome as a guest at £3 per session, but the benefits of being a member are obvious.

In addition to the monthly meetings which feature generous tastings of commercial wines, beers and spirits as well as interesting speakers, the Circle organises an annual theme party and dance and a summer BBQ lunch, the profits from which pay for the commercial tastings throughout the programme. The Circle also arranges an 'eating out' at a local restaurant each year, and has recently introduced into its social programme a friendly skittles evenings with supper. Of course, we also welcome amateur winemakers who can benefit from the vast experience of existing members and enter competitions from Circle competitions right up to festivals at national level. The Circle is currently running a free course for those wishing to learn about wine-making, which is proving to be very successful.

On 1 May Mark Banham of Palmers Wines of Bridport will be presenting a tasting of New Zealand wine and on 5 June, the last meeting of the current programme, there will be a tasting of home-made beers, linked with different English cheeses. This will be followed by the Summer BBQ lunch on Sunday 14 July. Then

the new programme will begin on 7 August with a commercial tasting of 'Wines under a Tenner' by Yapps of Mere. A twice yearly visit to the Octagon Theatre is also planned.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 1 May – A tasting of New Zealand wines by Palmers of Bridport

Wednesday 5 June – Home-made beer-tasting with cheese and America Supper

Sunday 14 July – BBQ lunch plus fun!

Wednesday 7 August – 'Wine under a Tenner' tasting by Yapps of Mere

For further information please contact the Secretary on 862816 or visit our web site www.eastcokerwinecirlce.co.uk

EAST COKER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our next meeting is the Annual General Meeting, and to make it more interesting we are introducing a wine (juice for the non-drinkers) and cheese evening which will enable new members to get to know the committee and other members in a sociable atmosphere. In May, we are having a talk on how to spot a good Cheddar, given by the husband of one of our members. On Thursday 27 June, we shall be arranging a birthday outing, the venue is yet to be decided. For our July meeting, we are being introduced into the art of quilting. Maybe this might be the subject of our craft day which we hold in the autumn. The monthly whist drives on the third Thursday of the month continue until 28 April, and then recommence after the summer break on Thursday 19 September.

For any further information, please contact our secretary Ruby Rollo on 475010

Diary dates

Thursday 18 April	Whist drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 25 April	AGM and cheese and wine	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 30 May	How to spot a good Cheddar	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 27 June	Birthday Outing		
Thursday 25 July	The art of quilting	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 29 August	Will's grumpy old men	7.30pm	East Coker Hall

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SAVE EAST COKER

The Council finally submitted the South Somerset Local Plan 2006-2028 to the Planning Inspectorate on 21 January. All comments received in response to last summer's public consultation on the Plan have also been passed to the Planning Inspector for consideration in his Independent Examination.

Following his initial scrutiny of the Plan, the Inspector has published an extensive list of Issues and Questions which need to be answered by the Council before he can rule on the 'soundness' of the Plan. These questions will be discussed in a series of public hearings, to be held in the SSDC Council Chamber at Brympton Way, starting on 7 May. A full programme of these events which extend over 3 weeks can be found via the SSDC website here <http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/local-plan-2006-2028/local-plan-examination/examination-timetable> (please note the starting time for the first session has been changed to 11.00am, not 2.00pm). This document also shows the names of all those objectors to the Plan who have been invited to attend each session and participate in the

'discussions'. In all sessions involving parts of the Plan which have an impact on the village and parish, East Coker is strongly represented not only by the Parish Council and the Preservation Trust's consultants but also by a number of concerned residents who have expressed their wish to appear and speak. Particularly important is the session on the Yeovil Urban Extension on 14 May and we hope that many of you will attend the hearing in the 'public gallery' and lend your support to the arguments against the Council's plan being presented by our consultants and QC.

Our team of consultants, under the guidance of our QC, are currently working flat out on the preparation of statements to support the case which will be made at the examination hearings. This is vital technical work which is essential to produce evidence which exposes the flaws in the Council's proposed plan.

We remain confident that we have a strong case to put to the Inspector and that this will achieve changes to the Plan. There is still much work to do and we have to assume that the 'battle' will continue until the end of 2013 or later, if the Inspector finds serious shortcomings in the Plan and calls for extensive modifications which will require further public consultation.

Of course all of this costs money and we very much appreciate the outstanding support which has been given to the Save East Coker campaign through the fund-raising events. Please see the programme of future events below and continue to give your support to the fight ahead.

ECPT contacts

Joe Coles 863146

Martyn Sowerbutts 863313

Richard Vanderpump 864565

Peter Woodford 863633

John Fysh 863963

Sandra Snelling 862162

SAVE EAST COKER FUND RAISING EVENTS

Saturday 27 April – A musical evening at 7.30pm in the East Coker Hall. Cheddar Male Voice Choir will sing a varied programme of music, being joined by local young talent Jessica Stephens who will entertain us with some memorable numbers from West End/Broadway hit shows.

The Hall will be open at 7.00pm, for you to choose where to sit, for the start at 7.30pm.

This promises to be an excellent evening of entertainment, so why not gather a group of friends together to enjoy it and raise some more funds for the fight to protect the village we all love.

Tickets will be £10 for adults and £7.50 for students, and are available from the Village Shop or by calling Anne Hartley 862060.

Sunday 9 June – 1.00pm till 5.00pm. Open Garden and Wildflower Meadow courtesy of Anne and John Cordwell. We are providing refreshments.

Saturday 15 June – Coffee Morning in Long Furlong Lane. Cakes, bring and buy, raffle, sit, relax and enjoy the view! 10.00am – 12.00pm. See poster shortly for more information.

Saturday 29 June – Wandering Supper. **See further information and application form below.** Di Miskin 862854

Many more events in the planning stages for July, August and September. Contact Sandra on 862162 for information or if you have any ideas of your own to raise some more money to help us this year.

EAST COKER WANDERING SUPPER 29 JUNE 2013

A Wandering Supper is to be held on Saturday 29 June (the Fête day) to raise funds to save East Coker.

Joe and Tanya Coles have kindly agreed to host the initial get-together from 6.30pm at Coker Court with pre-dinner drinks before our 'wander', and again on our return at 10.30pm for Liqueurs and Coffee and drawing the raffle - before retiring from what it is hoped is an enjoyable and slightly different experience. I am therefore asking whether you would be prepared to host either a Starter/main course/dessert and/or come as guests to what promises to be an interesting evening.

The price of £24 will include a pre-dinner drink at Coker Court, a 3-course meal with wine at various venues, and liqueurs and coffee on returning to Coker Court.

For those unfamiliar with a 'Wandering Supper', the format is as follows: Initially meet at Coker Court for pre-dinner drinks and a social gathering, and where all hosts and or guests will be given their itinerary and map before embarking on their wander - first to the host for starter, at a given time moving on to next venue for the main course, and then to the final venue for dessert before returning to Coker Court.

✂-----✂-----✂-----✂-----✂-----
East Coker Wandering Supper 29 June 2013

I would like.....places for (please state names of those who will be attending):

.....

*** I would like to prepare Starter/ Main/ Dessert. * I am happy to prepare any course.
(Please indicate preference)**

or

I/We would like to come as Guest/s.

A cheque for £.....payable to 'East Coker Preservation Trust' is attached.

(Give name).....has the following special dietary requirements:

.....

✂-----✂-----✂-----✂-----✂-----

Please return this form ASAP and not later than Saturday 18 May to Dianne Miskin at The Courtyard, Coker Court, East Coker or contact her on 862854.

Young People

EAST COKER TEA-ROOMS

Ann, Marilyn, Penny and the students welcome regular and new customers to The Tearooms (near the School). We are open every day from 9.00am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday throughout the year for coffee and cakes, light lunches and tea and cakes, serving good home-cooked food. Cream teas are also available with prior notice.

We also have a 'Book swap' in the Tearooms. You may borrow a book, or just sit and read it with a cup of coffee and one of the delicious cakes! We are closed Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays.

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

EAST COKER PLAYGROUP – find us on www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk

The wintry weather really has been experienced in full this year at the Playgroup. On some days it is a sensory overload! The Playgroup setting is surrounded by countryside, and the children (and adults) benefit from all the amazing weather that occurs. From blustery, windy days when the leaves dance across the fields, to crunchy, frosty mornings that make your nose ice cold. Then there are the glorious bright, sunny (with a hint of warmth) mornings that promise spring is coming. We get them all.

The children have the opportunity to enjoy it all, but we are all looking forward to warmer weather especially for the Summer Fair. East Coker Playgroup is holding their Annual Fund-raising Summer Fair on the afternoon of Saturday 18 May. There will be all the usual stalls, East Coker School Country dancers, a Grand Raffle and refreshments. We would love to see you there.

The wealth of experience of our fully qualified staff offers quality childcare and education through play, exploring the wider environment and local community with project-based activities. Ofsted have consistently given the group excellent reports and commended us for the interaction and encouragements between staff and children, partnership with parents, teaching, management and the emphasis on fun. Children can join us from the age of 2½, and Early Years Entitlement is available in the funding period after their third birthday. We are open during term time with sessions every week day - morning and afternoon

sessions on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and optional lunch cover for children who like to bring a packed lunch.

If you are seeking childcare for your 2 year old, East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup accepts children from their 2nd birthday to starting school. For the past few years, the staff at East Coker Playgroup also staff East Chinnock Under Fives playgroup. Both playgroups feed into East Coker Primary School. East Chinnock Under Fives playgroup is a smaller group, and this can be a great benefit to the younger children. The opening times are term-time, with sessions every week-day (morning and an afternoon session on Thursday), with optional lunch cover for children who like to bring a packed lunch. East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup also run an integrated Toddler Session on Thursday mornings from 9.30am to 11.00am for £1 per family. For more information, please visit www.eastchinnockunder5spreschool.co.uk

Information about both playgroups can be found on their websites and/or by contacting Kay Strode on 07798 812540.

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.

Saturday 27 April

Saturday 25 May

Saturday 29 June

Spring Jumble Sale - Saturday 20 April. East Coker Hall from 2.00pm. **Remember, we will collect.** Contact Max Bugler 862186.

The Churches

ST. MICHAEL'S

Eating – and hospitality – is an important part of church life. On 2 March, the PCC held a lunch in the East Coker Hall, for the purpose of drawing attention to the church's financial needs. Churches can all too easily fall into the trap of their members giving the same amount each Sunday while, year on year, expenses continue to rise. As a consequence, a deficit has arisen which we need to address. We try to maintain the church as a building that is central to the life of the village. Like everyone's rising costs at home, it costs us more and more each year to do so. We can only ask those who wish to see the church keep its place in the community to give realistically and generously whenever they can. We are always deeply appreciative of the wider community's support.

A Lent lunch of soup, bread and cheese at the Vicarage raised over £260 for the very valuable work Barnabas House is doing in Yeovil to provide emergency accommodation and support for the homeless.

On 5 May, Rogation Sunday when we ask God to bless the crops growing around us, we plan (weather permitting) to hold a picnic lunch in the Vicarage garden; the proceeds will go to Christian Aid to help those suffering the effects of more extreme weather.

Since the January Newsletter, things have progressed with the scheme for the union of the three churches of the East Coker Benefice with the four churches of the West Coker Benefice. After final approval of the scheme in February, a steering group was formed to help bring the scheme into effect.

An open meeting will be held in Hardington Village Hall on 16 May at 7.30pm as an opportunity to find out more about the scheme and ask questions. A date has also been fixed for the Service to inaugurate the scheme. The Service will take place in St Michael's, East Coker at 11.00am on 7 July when all seven churches will gather together for the first time. Please make a note and come along. We would like the launch to be a truly festive occasion.

After the Service, we plan to hold a picnic lunch in the Vicarage garden. It will be wonderful, not only to worship together, but to eat together, too.

The Rev'd Charles Hatton

PCC – AGM is on Wednesday 17 April 2013, Dampier Room, East Coker Hall, 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Services

7 April	10.30am	Family Leaflet	6.00pm – Evensong
14 April	8.00am – No service this month		10.30am – Sung Eucharist and Sunday School
21 April	10.00am	Matins	6.00pm – Evensong
28 April	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	6.00pm – Evensong
5 May Rogation	10.30am	Family Eucharist	6.00pm – Evensong
12 May	8.00am	Holy Communion	10.30am – Sung Eucharist and Sunday School
19 May Pentecost	10.00am	Sung Eucharist	6.00pm – Evensong
26 May Trinity	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	6.00pm – Evensong
2 June	10.30am	Family Leaflet	6.00pm – Evensong
9 June	8.00am	Holy Communion	10.30am – Sung Eucharist and Sunday School
16 June	10.00am	Sung Eucharist	6.00pm – Evensong
23 June	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	6.00pm – Evensong
30 June	10.30am	Matins	6.00pm – Evensong

SPRING FAIR AND PLANT SALE

St Michael's will be holding a Spring Fair and Plant Sale on Saturday 11 May, 10.00am – 12.00pm at Hope House (formerly Bubs pool House). Stalls will include Plants!! As well as Cakes, Produce, Bottle Tombola and Fair Trade Goods.

Any child who draws an A4 picture of a plant can bring their picture to the Fair and receive a sunflower seed in a pot, to grow on at home.

Gardeners – would you please grow some plants for the Fair and bring them along.

Please may we have jam, marmalade, and chutney (indeed, anything edible that is not a cake!) for the Produce Stall - and cakes for the Cake Stall. Please contact Christine Vince, 863429.

ALL SAINTS' SUTTON BINGHAM

Services

Sunday 7 April	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 April	11.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 5 May	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 May	11.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 2 June	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 16 June	11.30am	Holy Communion

ALL SAINTS' CLOSWORTH

Services

Sunday 14 April	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 21 April	10.00am	Family Service – celebrating St George
Sunday 28 April	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 12 May	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 19 May	10.00am	Family Service – Pentecost
Sunday 26 May	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 9 June	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 16 June	10.00am	Family Service
Sunday 23 June	9.00am	Holy Communion

For further details please phone me on 862834 Monica.

BIBLE MID-WEEK MEETINGS – A series in Exodus

Wednesday 17 April, 7.00pm – Doug Johnson – I am the Lord – Exodus 14:5-18

Wednesday 15 May, 7.00pm – James Maitland

Wednesday 19 June, 7.00pm – Speaker to be confirmed

These meetings will take place in the East Coker Hall. Do join us and bring your friends. Refreshments are served after each meeting. For further details, please contact Edward Armitstead 862785 or Roy Hodder 862519.

EAST COKER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, BURTON LANE

Weekly Meetings Sundays Services 11.00am. Other services as announced. **All** are welcome to **all** of our services.

Coffee Stop The Hall is open every Wednesday from 11.00am until 1.00pm for coffee and tea. There are usually some 10-14 present. Everyone is welcome to come along, and it is simply meant to be a place where friends can get together for a chat. There is no charge for the refreshments.

We also run **Home Groups** on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for anyone who may be interested in discussing the Christian faith, and there is a youth group meeting midweek for those aged between 18 and 30.

Men's Breakfast At 8.30am on the first Saturday of alternate months we hold a Men's Breakfast (sometimes at the chapel and sometimes elsewhere).

Little Wheelers Mother and Toddler Group meeting at the East Coker Hall each Tuesday (during term time) from 10.30am – 12.00pm.

Kevin Chapman is available from Tuesday to Friday. 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. Alternatively, you may wish to look at our website on www.eastcokerchapel.co.uk

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' The letter to the Romans, Chapter 15 verse 13 (NIVUK)

Village News

PLANT SALE – PROCEEDS TO ST. MARGARET'S HOSPICE

To be held at Weavers Lodge, East Coker on Saturday 18 May 2013 between 10.00am and 2.00pm.

Parking is very limited, so please park on the road near the school. It will be well signposted. I have a willing husband with wheelbarrow who can assist you.

There will be a plentiful supply of flower plants, and this year we hope to have a variety of vegetable plants as well. A raffle will also be held on the day, with excellent prizes.

We have had many successful years and we are hoping this year will also be well attended.

If you have any pots, modular trays etc that are surplus to requirements, please either give us a ring or drop them round.

Glenn and Christine Seymour 863961

VILLAGE FETE: SATURDAY, 29 JUNE 2013

We at East Coker Christian Fellowship are intending to organise the Village Fete for Saturday 29 June 2013. We will be looking to hold the Fete from 12.00pm until 4.00pm. We are hoping to have many of our regular attractions (for example, Thomas the Tank Engine, Classic Cars, Weymouth Donkeys, Children's Tent etc) with a few new attractions as well (such as an inflatable assault course and a couple of items we are awaiting confirmation on!). We are also hoping to have a Fancy Dress competition again this year. We will let you know the theme nearer the time.

Some of the village societies/clubs have already replied to the invitation to take part. If you know of any society, club or individual(s) who may want to support the Fete, either by providing some entertainment or having a stall, please ask them to contact me as below.

We are keeping the charges for the tables/pitches the same as last year, that is, Table in the Hall £1.50 per foot, frontage for pitches in the field £1.00 per foot.

Many thanks, Kevin Chapman, Pastor, East Coker Christian Fellowship. Contact Details: Home 422594. Mobile 07812726853 email ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk

WALK A WHILE, RAISE A SMILE, ON SUNDAY 5 MAY 2013



IT'S CHILDSPLAY is an annual walking event in which hundreds of local people have participated over the past three years. It is organised by the **Rotary Clubs of Yeovil** to raise money for **Somerset's Children's Hospice South West**. Charlton Farm Hospice at Wraxall, near Bristol, provides dedicated care to **life limited children** and **support for their families**. It is financed almost entirely by the **generosity of supporters**.

The Rotary clubs of Yeovil and Yeo Vale are regular contributors to this organisation, and in 2013 they are again making a big effort to raise a substantial amount through an '**IT'S CHILDSPLAY**' walkabout on Sunday 5 May as part of a combined effort throughout the South West.

Since 2010 Rotary Clubs in Yeovil have raised over £15,000 through 'IT'S CHILDSPLAY'. Each year, walkers starting from East Coker have made a significant contribution to this achievement.

Everyone can help this very worthwhile event as a participant or sponsor. Participants 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 they finish at Yeovil Country Park (Nine Springs, by Goldenstones swimming pool) between 12 noon and 4 pm and that each participant aims to raise a minimum of £10.00 and brings this to the Finish. You could just do the very attractive walks in the park itself. All walkers 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 why not help by sponsoring the event?

If you would like to walk (about 3 miles) with a friendly group of local folk, then register now with either of us below to meet at East Coker Village Hall at 11:00am on 5 May for orange juice/bacon roll/coffee. We'll start on a suggested route around 11:30am. Please come and join us. To learn more please visit our website at www.yeovilchildsplay.org.uk

Peter Burrows 862218

John Hollis 863002

OPEN GARDEN – Owl Cottage, Coker Marsh

The garden will be open for the National Gardens Scheme on the weekend 15/16 June and 7/8 September 2013 from 2.00pm – 5.00pm. All welcome.

Sue Richards

SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY

The mobile library route for East Coker is Tuesday, every 4 weeks, from 2.30pm – 2.50pm at the Helyar Arms, and 2.55pm – 3.10pm at Mill Close. Further information from Libraries Direct 0845 3459177 or www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries

16 April

14 May

11 June

9 July

EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

Neighbourhood Plan

Work has continued a pace in the process of Neighbourhood Planning. We have met with Andy Foyne and other South Somerset District Council (SSDC) officers on two occasions and have continued to emphasise that we still object to the development as suggested within the draft Local Plan, but we want to proceed with the statutory Neighbourhood Plan (NP) to give us some input to the detail of future development within the Parish, whilst having to conform to the Local Plan when adopted.

We have:

- delivered an information sheet to every dwelling and business in the parish;
- started the process of producing a questionnaire which will be available for all parishioners and those working within the parish;
- started to structure the evidence base which will be needed for the NP;
- set up a dedicated area on the East Coker Parish Council website www.EastCokerParish.com to keep people informed of what is happening, including notes of meetings etc;
- plans to develop social media facilities.

Councillor Kath Wilson attended a free three day planning conference in Bristol to learn more about the process.

We have submitted the application for the NP area to be the same as the parish boundary to SSDC, and their consultation runs until 2 May 2013. With the support of independent consultants, who are grant-funded to help us, we have been working on a Memorandum of Understanding for working with SSDC, who have a duty to support our NP development. We will soon send this to them for their comments, and hopefully it will be adopted as the basis for agreement on how we work together.

We have already had offers of help from parishioners, many thanks to you all. I will be in touch as we progress through the tasks. If you are interested or can help in any way, please contact a Parish Councillor or Councillor Kath Wilson on 475029, kath.wilson@sky.com.

Sports Store at the Recreation Ground

Work will soon begin on the creation of a new store for the football and cricket clubs at the Rec. Planning permission has been granted, and we are grateful for £2000 funding which has been given by Councillor Bakewell from the Somerset County Council Health and Wellbeing grant. This will be supplemented by funds from the Parish Council. The old store will be demolished and the larger, improved store will allow equipment and machinery to be stored safely close to, but separate from, the Pavilion. We hope that it further enhances the enjoyment and health promotion of all the local people who participate in these sports.

Village Noticeboard

Councillor Bennett has been working on plans for a noticeboard giving information about places of special interest within the parish. He has developed a format, wording and photographs which are now being made into a draft of the proposed noticeboard. We hope the final version will soon be produced and sited within the Parish.

Parish Ranger Scheme

For several years, general maintenance in the village has been carried out by the Lengthsman, Richard, who has also been doing similar work for other parishes. Richard has now retired and the Lengthsman Scheme has ended. After careful research, it has been decided to use SSDC's Parish Ranger Scheme in the absence of the Lengthsman Scheme. The new Parish Ranger will start in April, and for the first three months he will spend two days a week on village maintenance reducing to one day per week thereafter.

The Parish Ranger scheme gives us access to a greater number of services than was provided by the previous arrangements. It will include clearing road drains, cutting back overhanging brambles and foliage in public areas, weed treatment, strimming of certain verges, repairs to stiles, fly-tipping and litter removal as well as many other related tasks. The Parish Council invites parishioners to report any necessary maintenance by contacting Councillor Bridget Sugg on 863435 or Councillor Stan Shayler 420291. With changes in funding arrangements for the County and District Councils, greater responsibility for village maintenance rests with the Parish Council who are dedicated to the upkeep and improvement of the village scene. Please contact us if you have any suggestions.

Vacancy for Parish Councillor

There is a vacancy for a parish councillor. If you are interested, please contact Mrs Pauline Gubbins, Parish Clerk, on 862062, clerk@eastcokerpc1.wanadoo.co.uk

Councillor Kath Wilson on behalf of East Coker Parish Council.

'UNCHANGED' VILLAGE OPENS ITS DOORS WITH FIRST HISTORY DAYS

A fascinating glimpse into the past of a quintessential rural community is the aim of a Parish and Family History Weekend to be held for the first time in a neighbouring parish.

Pendomer, a tiny community with about 40 inhabitants lies at the end of a no-through-road a few miles from us. It has changed little in centuries and has records that give an insight into the lives of the people who lived and worked there. At its heart is the Grade II* listed church of St Roch – believed to be one of only two in the country so named – whose first incumbent is recorded as Johannis Personis in 1297.

'As the only road to it ends in the hamlet, Pendomer has, unlike many villages, retained its original character and purpose to a remarkable degree through the centuries, and documents we have in the parish give us a glimpse into its history and the lives and employment of the inhabitants. As well as being of great interest to people with a historic family connection with Pendomer, we feel that the picture we aim to present will also appeal to a much wider audience,' said David Lovelock who is heading the organising team.

The event, which will be centred on the church, is planned for the weekend of 29 and 30 June. In addition to static exhibits, there will be workshops on the techniques and methods of tracing your own family or village history at pre-booked sessions led by a professional researcher.

'While we have a range of fascinating material there is nothing quite like contemporary photographs, maps and letters to bring the official documents to life, so we would like to appeal to anyone who has such material concerning the people of Pendomer or scenes of the village, church or other activities over the years,' said David. 'We would very much like to borrow or copy them for exhibition over the weekend.'

If you are able to help, or would like a more detailed timetable of the weekend to be sent to you when it is available, please email David at info@pendomer.org.uk or call him on 891328.

EAST COKER RAINFALL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2012

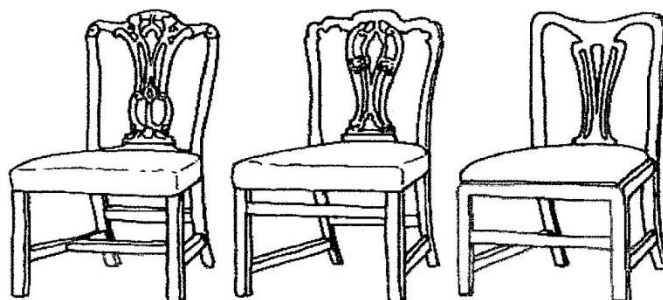
It might have been expected that, when the last quarter of 2012 concluded with a heavyweight total of twenty inches of rain, some more moderate programme might follow in the new year. Not so, for although January to March notched up no more than nine inches, a close average of three inches per month, more time was spent in early-morning rain on average every third day. The mornings were mostly dull and grey and the rainfall was persistent early in the day, although snow and heavy frosts were hardly at all present in East Coker. The cold, however, was another matter, and a source of exceptional discomfort among our residents, and nor are we done with it as April begins with a chilly wind burning the ears of anyone moving outside without wearing head protection against the cold. There has been little or no origin of such forceful weather during the twenty-one years Anne and I have lived here, and no signs yet offer a clue to what might be the pattern of weather in the remaining three quarters of this year. Time will provide the actuality of our weather, and I will try both to keep an accuracy of the rainfall, and to attempt to place what does happen into the overall report as it unfolds from month to month.

In other words, nothing of much import to note yet, but keep watching this space and I will try to keep you informed of matters meteorological.

Clive Bingley

KEN MARSH

u p h o l s t e r y



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NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **July 2013**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or e-mail l.lindsay@eastcoker.com, or to The Stores, East Coker, by **Thursday 20 June 2013**.

QUARTERLY VILLAGE DIARY APRIL 2013 – JULY 2013

Mon 8 April	Time to Share - Book & Poetry Reading	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Thur 11 April	Gardening Club – Lady Skelmersdale	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Tues 16 April	Library		
Wed 17 April	St Michael's PCC – AGM	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Thur 18 April	W I – Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 20 April	Scouts – Spring Jumble Sale	East Coker Hall	2.00pm
Mon 22 April	Time to Share – Guide Dogs	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Fri 26 April	RBL – Cheese & Wine	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 26 April	Coffee Morning – Contact	The Foresters	10.00am - 12.00pm
Sat 27 April	Save East Coker – Musical Evening	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 27 April	Scout Group – Waste Paper	Near the School	8.30am - 10.30am
Wed 1 May	Wine Circle – Tasting	East Coker Hall	8.00pm
Sun 5 May	Childsplay		
Tues 7 May	East Coker Society – AGM	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Thurs 9 May	Gardening Club – Gladiolus	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 11 May	Spring Fair & Plant Sale	Hope House	10.00am - 12.00pm
Mon 13 May	Time to Share – RNLI	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Tues 14 May	Library		
Fri 17 & Sat 18 May	The Players – Two Plays	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 18 May	The Playgroup – Summer Fair	The Pavilion	2.00pm
Sat 18 May	Plant Sale – St Margaret's Hospice	Weaver's Cottage	10.00am - 12.00pm
Mon 20 May	East Coker Hall Trust – AGM	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Mon 20 May	Time to Share – Knit & Natter	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Sat 25 May	Scout Group – Waste Paper	Near the School	8.30am - 10.30am
Thur 30 May	W I – Cheese	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 31 May	Coffee Morning – Rotary Shelter Boxes	The Foresters	10.00am - 12.00pm
Mon 3 June	Time to Share – Outing		
Wed 5 June	Wine Circle – Beer Tasting	East Coker Hall	8.00pm
Sun 9 June	Save East Coker – Open Garden		1.00pm - 5.00pm
Tue 11 June	Library		
Thur 13 June	Gardening Club – Aquilegias	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 15 June	Coffee Morning	Long Furlong Lane	10.00am - 12.00pm
Sat 15 & Sun 16 June	Open Garden in aid of National Gardens Scheme	Owl Cottage, Coker Marsh	2.00pm - 5.00pm
Mon 17 June	Time to Share – Keep Fit	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Thur 20 June	Copy for July Newsletter		
Thur 27 June	W I – Birthday Outing		
Fri 28 June	Coffee Morning – 'Ups & Downs'	The Foresters	10.00am - 12.00pm
Sat 29 June	East Coker Fete	East Coker Hall	12.00pm - 4.00pm
Sat 29 June	Save East Coker – Wandering Supper		
Sat 29 June	Scout Group – Waste Paper	Near the School	8.30am - 10.30am
Sat 29 & Sun 30 Jun	Parish & Family History Weekend	St Roch Church, Pendomer	
Mon 1 July	Time to Share – Garden Party	Nash Lane	2.30pm
Fri 5 July	Action Medical Research – Cream Teas		