

# East Coker Society Newsletter



APRIL 2014

Free Issue No 154

Chair: John Sugg	863435	
Secretary: Sarah Owen	862218	
Treasurer: Martin Wells	864198	
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## East Coker Society News

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held in the Dampier room, East Coker Hall on Wednesday 21 May at 7.00pm. All welcome!

### VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY – PLEASE USE IT!

The 2014 Diary is now at the Village 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.

### '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.

### BONFIRES

Please consider your neighbours before having a bonfire in the middle of the day. Also, think of the direction of the wind. Later in the afternoon allows washing to be dried, leaves to be raked and gardening to be done without having to retreat indoors from bonfire smoke and falling ash.

## Village Clubs and Organisations

### EAST COKER READING GROUP

We have two Groups, meeting once a month. The evening group (currently 7 members) meets in individual members' homes for about two hours (usually) on the first Tuesday of each month. The daytime group (also currently 7 members) meets for about one hour in the Goose Slade Farm Tea Shop on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month (but venue and days do vary to accommodate member's other commitments). As the Library charge Reading Groups a monthly fee we, in turn, charges a fee of 50p per month to each member. We are a very easy-going group – if you don't like the book, don't feel obliged to read it! The discussions are always interesting - even on the odd occasion when the book hardly gets a mention!

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

## TIME TO SHARE

We have had a brilliant start to 2014, with around 40 members at every meeting. We particularly enjoyed Birds of Prey when Sharan brought some wonderful Owls and a Kestrel for us to see close up, and we could even stroke them. Annette's trip to Iceland was a magical event too. We are also enjoying a coffee and/or lunch at Goose Slade Farm once a month, which is a lovely way to meet and catch up.

### Diary dates

Monday 14 April – Easter Bazaar

Monday 28 April – Musical instruments from long ago

Monday 12 May – Sochi with John Burgess (all welcome, but please ring Sandra to ensure extra cakes!) A pictorial story of John's month in Sochi for the Winter Olympics.

Monday 2 June – Salsa Dancing

Monday 16 June – Outing to Exmouth to include a trip on the River Exe with cream tea.

Monday 30 June – 'A day in the Life of' – with Gill Holt

A date for your diary – Garden Party and Birthday Bash on **Monday 14 July** courtesy of Lois Crisp.

Sandra Snelling 862162 Mobile 07717723448 email [sandra.snelling@googlemail.com](mailto:sandra.snelling@googlemail.com)

## EAST COKER MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

The year has started well with the January coffee morning generating £150 for Help for Heroes. In February, the event was also very successful and a total of £375 was collected for the RNLI.

The forthcoming events will be for

- Friday 25 April – Yeovil Rotary Club for: Piers Simon 'School in a bag' Appeal.
- Friday 30 May – Inner Wheel, for CDKL5 UK (Rare genetic disorder affecting children and adults).
- Friday 27 June – Save East Coker campaign

There are still two vacancies in the calendar of events for this year, in August and October, so if you know anyone who would like to hold a coffee morning for a charity please ask them to contact Cherry or Penny.

Please come along to the Forester's Arms and give your continued support to all 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

## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER

In 2004, under the Chairmanship of John Field, the Branch was awarded the Colin MacKenzie Memorial Cup for Branch Efficiency (to branches with 101-500 members)

Now nine years on we have done it again. I would like to thank my Committee and the helpers at our events, the Poppy Appeal, house-to-house collectors and businesses, understanding wives/partners and finally, those of you who support us at our events and during the Poppy Appeal. We are all part of the East and West Coker, Hardington and East Chinnock Branch Efficiency Team. Thank you.

This year, the country is commemorating the start of WW1. Events are being held nationally and locally, please see local press, magazines and village notice boards for information. If you have any WW1 paraphernalia (photos, poems, clothing, tools, etc) and are willing to loan for display, please contact me, Marilyn Smith, or any member of the committee.

A few facts about WW1. It began on 28 July 1914 and ended 11 November 1918. Thirty countries were involved in the conflict, by its end over nine million soldiers had been killed and another 21 million wounded, with thousands suffering from stress (shell-shock), known today as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Over a million soldiers were killed in the 'Battle of the Somme' (1 July to 13 November 1916), including 30,000 in just one day. It must be remembered all these men were volunteers, as are the men and women of our forces today. Conscription was introduced in 1916 to 1919 and 1939 to 1960, the last National Service personnel leaving in 1963.

Sadly, conflicts still continue throughout the world involving our service personnel, and as our troops withdraw from Afghanistan, it is with sadness we remember the 448 who made the ultimate sacrifice. Let us not forget those who were injured, physically and mentally, plus their families who need the help and assistance of the RBL and other service charities.

Please support us as we commemorate those who have given so much, enabling us to live in peace and safety in our 'Green and Pleasant Land'

#### **Diary dates**

Friday 25 April – Cheese and Wine Evening, 7.30pm East Coker Hall, £5.00, including first drink and refreshments. The parents of an Afghanistan veteran will talk about their son's journey to recovery.

Friday 9 May – Charity Golf Day at Worlebury Golf Club, Monks Hill, Weston-Super-Mare BS22.9SX. Teams of 4 £150.00, includes – refreshments on arrival, 18 holes of golf, 2 course buffet and BBQ, cool drinks available on course – contact Sue Potepa [spotepa@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:spotepa@britishlegion.org.uk)

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 June – Henstridge Forces Weekend

Saturday 22 June – Weymouth and Portland Armed Forces Celebration

Thank you all for your continued support

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

**Treasurer** Clifford Humphreys 862242;

**Committee** Russell Chatwin 414080; Wendy Weston 862472; Barbara McAulay 423871

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#### **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, minimum age 9 years 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 FLOWER SHOW AND WINE FESTIVAL – 16 August 2014**

**Floral Art Classes** – Twigs and Flowers; Arrangement with fruit; Sparkle; Book Title.

There is a people's choice this year (it is where the public choose their best arrangement, and the winner of the best display will win a voucher.)

**Homecraft Classes** – Lemon Drizzle Cake; Shortbread round; Loaf; and many more.

**Craft Classes** – Hand-made; Hot Water bottle cover; Patchwork/Quilted table runner; and more.

**Photography Classes** – Insects; Doors; Vegetables; Tower/towers; Fun; Favourite Somerset View x4.

**Children's** – Under 5's to stay the same; 6-10 years - Scarecrow not to exceed 40cm; the rest to stay the same; 11-15 years Mask; Something made at School; Design and make a mobile phone cover.

We hope this gives you an idea for some inspiration to give the show a go. The Schedules will be out soon.

Sarah Rashley

## **EAST COKER VILLAGE QUIZ 2014**

The Ninth Annual Village Quiz was held in East Coker Village Hall on 8 March 2014. Twenty-one teams of eight competed in an evening of questions which tested their knowledge on subjects ranging from Railways to the Royal Family. In the interval an excellent fish-and-chip supper was enjoyed by all.

This year the Rusty Millers team was victorious, with the Crumplers team as 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 £970. This will be donated to the charity nominated by last year's winners – YTFC Get Pedalling 2014 appeal, which is raising funds for Prostate Cancer UK, St Margaret's Hospice, and Yeovil Town Community Sports Trust.

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 7 March 2015.

Martyn and Cherry Sowerbutts 863313

## **ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH**

We are holding a 'Bubbles and Treats' evening at The Yeovil Court Hotel on Thursday 10 April from 7.00pm. Tickets are £10, to include a glass of bubbly and sweet canapés and this will be a chance for you to catch up with girlfriends and browse a selection of gorgeous stalls. Tickets available from The Yeovil Court or Jane Donnelly.

Our local Cream Tea delivery this year will take place on Friday 4 July. If you would like to have a delicious cream tea delivered to your house on that day, please contact either myself or Angie Mead on 862972.

This year we are expanding our corporate Cream Tea overnight delivery to businesses where we don't have a local committee, and we are very grateful and delighted that this year Lesley Waters has agreed to front our campaign – details of which will shortly be sent out to 100,000 contacts with the hope that we will receive up to 4000 orders. Obviously, this is going to be a huge challenge for our small committee but we are so thrilled that something which we started in a very small way nine years ago has grown and become so popular and a very successful fundraiser for the charity. These cream teas will be delivered to businesses on 19 June, with the hard work for us being done the two days before. If you have any friends or family who you think might be interested in taking part in this anywhere in the UK, or are just interested in what it is all about, please have a look at our website [www.action.org.uk/ctdirect](http://www.action.org.uk/ctdirect) which will be live from the end of March.

For further information regarding the above, please contact me Jane Donnelly on 478409 or [jane@donnelly81.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:jane@donnelly81.fsnet.co.uk)

## EAST COKER PLAYERS

As you may, or may not, already know the Players have been fund-raising for a new stage lighting system. The money raised from our Pantomime and Christmas bingo night together with generous donations from East Coker Parish Council, the 400 Club and other local organisations, have enabled us nearly to achieve our goal.

Our next fund-raising event is Easter Bingo at the East Coker Hall on Friday 4 April, 7.00pm for 'eyes-down' 7.15pm. A fun evening for all the family.

We hope to have our new lights installed and ready for the Spring production 'Passports Please'. A journey around the world and beyond! Performances will be on Friday 16 May and Saturday 17 May at 7.30pm. Tickets – Adults £5; Children £4; available from Vicky at the Village Store from mid-April.

Our next Pantomime will be Cinderella, written by John Langdon, a member of the Players and will be directed by Ian White. Production dates 28 and 29 November 2014. We will be holding our first read through on Monday 2 June 2014 at 7.00pm in the Dampier Room. All welcome.

If you would like any further information on joining the Players, for the Pantomime, or about the above events, please contact us. Anne Hartley 862080 Hazel Giddings 429163



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## **EAST COKER HALL CHARITABLE TRUST – NOTICE OF AGM TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 19 MAY 2014**

The Annual General Meeting of the Trust will be held on Monday 19 May 2014 in the Dampier Room of East Coker Hall, Halves Lane, commencing at 7.30pm.

Any organisation wishing to have a representative on the Committee should 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 HALL – NEEDS YOU**

The East Coker Hall Committee is seeking a person to hold the post of Chair for a period of two years. The Committee is also seeking someone to act as the Health and Safety officer. We would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in helping to run this valued village amenity. If you would like to know more, please contact John Hollis 863002, Clive Murrell 862827 or Helen Styles 862447.

## EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

Members of the Gardening Club started the year off with an extremely interesting talk by Terry Heard, (who has worked in the woodland industry for many years) on coppicing and the uses to which the wood is put – every part of the coppiced wood is used. Many of us think of bean poles and pea sticks, but there are also tent pegs, spars for thatching, charcoal, fencing, broom. Of great interest was the variety of tools used for coppicing that Terry had brought with him. A besom broom was made for the raffle, and won by a member who had very recently moved house. At the February meeting, Malcolm Mills from the Gardens Group spoke about 'Plants that changed the World'. On a very foggy evening in March, Kim Robinson, a Compost Champion, spoke about the science, myths and magic of mixing and cooking good garden compost. In March, members were able to take advantage of the club's Plant and Produce Stall. Over the next few months, we look forward to the following talks and trips:

### Diary dates

10 April	<b>Clivias</b>	Ian Coates
8 May	<b>Yeovil in Bloom</b>	Steve Fox, SSDC
12 June	<b>Plants of South Africa</b>	Michael Keith-Lucas
10 July	<b>Gertrude Jekyll</b>	David Usher

### Trips

9 May	The Malvern Spring Show
30 July	Holt Farm, Yeo Valley, Blagdon
30 September	Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Romsey

The Club holiday, in April, will be based at Stourport on Severn, and will include visits to gardens and other places of interest.

We are always happy to welcome new members and visitors. Why not join us for an enjoyable, sociable evening, and the chance to visit gardens and places of interest. The annual subscription is £10, with subs of £1 per meeting. Visitors £3. 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.

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## EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

### Tuesday 29 April 'A Poem and a Picture' at The Helyar Arms, East Coker, 7.30pm

This meeting will be a mix of poems and images. Choose a poem and a picture to go with it - the picture can be any image that you would like to accompany your poem. Send the picture to me by email or by post at least a week in advance of the meeting. If you cannot send a picture, I will try and select an appropriate image if you let me know details of the poem or the subject of the poem you will be reading.

email [info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk](mailto:info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk) or phone David Cloke 862623 website [www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk](http://www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk)

## SAVE EAST COKER

South Somerset DC has now submitted its proposed Main Modifications to the Proposed Local Plan to the Planning Inspector, together with all the representations received during the public consultation. As we have come to expect of SSDC, the Council has made negligible changes as a result of the consultation despite receiving 1039 submissions, many of which highlighted significant deficiencies in SSDC's responses to the issues raised by the Inspector. On this basis, we and our Planning Consultants believe that there is a real possibility that, following his examination of the Modifications, the Inspector will find that the Plan is still unsound.

East Coker Parish Council and East Coker Preservation Trust have made robust and extensive representations which draw attention to the inadequacy of SSDC's modifications and we will be emphasising our arguments in the Hearings which are expected to be resumed on 10 June.

When he has digested all the documents which have just been submitted to him, the Inspector will send to the Council a series of Issues and Questions seeking further clarification and evidence regarding the proposed modifications. This will also provide an opportunity for all interested parties to submit further statements in response to the points which he raises. Rest assured that we and our consultants will use this to emphasise further the detrimental effect which the building of 800 houses will have on East Coker. We must continue to put forward our arguments and evidence against the acceptability of this – not only is there still a real risk that the Council will try to go back to the 1,565 figure, but equally we could achieve a significant reduction in the 800, possibly even eliminating the development entirely.

We will be retaining the services of the same Consultants and QC who have successfully made the case on behalf of Save East Coker in the earlier hearings and consultations. We do not yet know how much work they will need to do but clearly we will need to continue our Fund Raising programme to pay for this. See below for the latest update on events.

Even though we are planning for a full year of Fund Raising events, we are aware that some would like the convenience of making regular contributions by placing a standing order to support the work of these professionals. It is recognised that not everyone's circumstances are the same and it is important that you contribute at a figure you feel comfortable with. The standing order should ideally be for twelve months with a suggested figure of, say, £20 per month commencing as soon as is convenient.

Our Bank Account details are:

Sort Code: 60-24-37 Account No. 13844504 'East Coker Preservation Trust'

Please see the programme of future fund-raising events below and continue to give your support to help us sustain the fight.

### ECPT contacts

Joe Coles 863146

Peter Woodford 863633

Martyn Sowerbutts 863313

John Fysh 863963

Richard Vanderpump 864565

Sandra Snelling 862162

### Diary dates

**10 May** – 40's Big Band Dance and Supper at Coker Court from 7.30pm. Come and dance the night away to Glenn Miller and many other wartime artistes. 1940's dress style. Tickets at £25 each are available from Bridget Sugg 863435 and Sandi Wintersgill 864342 or the Village Store.

**8 June** – Afternoon tea at Anne and John Cordwell's Wildflower Meadow – **not to be missed**. 2.00pm – 5.00pm.

**14 June** – Wandering Supper. After the success of the last one, we recommend you get booked in for this as soon as possible. Begins and ends at Coker Court, but who knows where you will end up in between!

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. Starting at 6.30 pm. The price is the same as last year at £24. For further information, please contact Di Miskin on 862854.

Loads more events throughout the year. Look out for further communication from Sandra and watch village noticeboards for information.

Sandra 862162

## **Hana & George**

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### **EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE**

Three varied and interesting evenings are planned for the closing quarter of yet another successful year for East Coker Wine Circle. For the 2 April meeting, popular speaker, Terry Bailey has been invited to speak on the history of the English Pub. This will be followed on 7 May with a Quiz Night, and the year closes at the AGM on 4 June with a Spanish wine- tasting presented by Laithwaites. It is hoped that tapas will also be shared at this meeting. The evening will also include the Annual Circle Wine competitions.

The new programme opens on 13 July with the Summer BBQ event on the Vicarage Lawn (early booking through Chris Branson 863555 is advisable). There will be several fun competitions during the afternoon. The new programme is in the process of being planned but will include a wide variety of fascinating talks and tastings, including wines, mulled cider and liqueurs. The Annual Theme Party will be substituted in January with a Wassail Night, to include songs and stories by Bonny Sartin, mulled cider and supper. A highlight of the new programme will be a cooking demonstration by a first class local chef. The full programme will be published in due course.

Many members attended the memorial service, at St Michael's Church, in honour of Eileen Horwood who had been a member for many years.

The Wine Circle meets at the East Coker Hall on the first Wednesday of each month, and welcomes new members and guests. For more information contact, Chris Branson 863555.

#### **Diary dates**

Wednesday	2 April Talk – The English Pub by Terry Baillie – East Coker Hall 8.00pm
Wednesday	7 May – Quiz Night – Village Hall – East Coker Hall 8.00pm
Wednesday	4 June – Spanish Wine Tasting by Laithwaites – East Coker Hall 8.00pm
Sunday	13 July – BBQ Event – Vicarage Lawn – 12.30pm for 1.00pm



### EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

Beavers, cubs and scouts have been busy this year, and March seems to be a crazy month for the cubs.

After all the chocolate at Christmas, the beavers took on the Fitness Challenge badge with balancing games and healthy eating. Chinese New Year was marked with dragon painting. Pancakes, growing chess and balloon cars continue the variety of activities.

The beavers and cubs walked around East Coker for a 'hike and hot dog' one Saturday - you may have heard them.

The cubs have focused on the Promise Challenge Badge, which has included a visit to the church on a rainy night. A lifeboats night was greatly enjoyed as well as air-rifle shooting at Great Lyde.

The cubs and scouts competed in the Yeovil District chess and draughts competition with one of our scouts coming third in the chess.

The scouts have been completing their Promise Challenge Badge with 'scouting in 30seconds', developing a code of conduct and identifying how they make a positive difference. In the 4-a-side football, we reached the semi-final, and the scouts spent one evening walking across Yeovil from Stars Lane to Palmers Fish and Chips, answering several challenging questions on route. We managed to get back out to Max's Field, in Yetminster, last Friday, for games and marshmallows over open fires, as it has dried out at last; we aim to spend one Friday a month outdoors.

Looking ahead, both the cubs and scouts have their District Hike competitions; we won trophies in both, last year, so our hopes are high.

David Webber

**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 3 May

Saturday 31 May

Saturday 28 June

**Jumble Sale – Spring** Saturday 26 April at East Coker Hall from 2.00pm. **Remember We Will Collect.**

Contact Max Bugler 862186.

**EAST COKER PLAYGROUP** – find us on [www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk](http://www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk)

Spring feels just around the corner and with a new season comes a new, bright and airy playroom for the playgroup children to utilise. No time has been wasted and the Playgroup has settled into the new space. The children have been getting very creative, making Mother's Day cards and gifts, quickly followed by Easter cards. At the end of the term, the children will be taking part in a sponsored walk and Easter Egg Hunt around the recreation ground where the Playgroup is situated. At the moment, it is any one's guess whether refreshments will need to be hot or not.

The annual Fun-raising Fair will be on afternoon of Saturday 17 May 2014 at the Pavilion, Long Furlong Lane, East Coker. There will be stalls, a raffle and refreshments. Please come along and support your local playgroup, we would love to see you.

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 is available in the funding period after their third birthday. We are open during term-time, with sessions every weekday 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. This began when East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup was threatened with closure due to staff shortages, and has worked to the benefit of both groups, each maintaining their own committee and identity. 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 Wednesday and Thursday, with optional lunch cover for children who like to bring a packed lunch. Find us at [www.eastchinnockunder5spreschool.co.uk](http://www.eastchinnockunder5spreschool.co.uk)

For more information and to put your child/children on the waiting list for either playgroup, please contact Kay Strode on 07798 812540.

#### **Diary dates for East Coker Pre-school Playgroup**

Summer Fair – Saturday 17 May 2014

Winter Fair – Sunday 9 November 2014

East Chinnock Under 5s Summer Fair – 14 June

#### **EAST COKER COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL – PTFA**

##### **Diary dates**

Summer Fair – Friday 13 June 6.00pm

Big Band Event – Sunday 13 July

## **The Churches**

### **ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH**

April sees the culmination of the Christian year with the great festival of Easter, and we shall have Services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday beforehand to help us re-live the prior events of Holy Week. Easter itself is a wonderful day and a celebration of a vital item of faith: that death never has the last word; it is but the preliminary to new life. At times of grief, that is an important consolation to hold on to. And in a world so often dominated by bad news, it is good to have a well-founded hope that God can turn despair into victory.

April also brings our Annual General Meeting in the East Coker Hall, on Wednesday 16 April at 7.30pm. We shall be electing new Church Wardens this year as Penny Marpole and Ian White feel the time has come to stand down. All members of the church owe them a great debt of gratitude for their unfailing commitment and service to the church, not least during the interregnum when they shouldered many additional responsibilities. Equally, they have been a great source of help to many others who have made use of the church on numerous occasions - not least for baptisms, weddings, funerals, etc. We say a very big "thank you" to them both and wish them well in their retirement from office.

In previous years, we have held a church picnic on the Vicarage lawn to mark Rogation Sunday. This year, we shall hold the picnic a little later, on Sunday 8 June, to mark another major Christian festival, Pentecost. Known as 'the birthday of the Church' when the Apostles suddenly found themselves making many converts by addressing a multi-national crowd in their own languages, it provides an excellent reason for a celebration.

Rev'd Charles Hatton

**Coker Ridge Benefice Service Plan.** The service details for April to June 2014 will be found at the end of this Newsletter.

### **SPRING FAIR AND PLANT SALE 17 MAY 2014**

St Michael's will be holding a Spring Fair and Plant Sale on Saturday 17 May, 10am – 12.00pm, at Hope House (next to Townsend Farm, East Coker).

Stalls will include Plants, Cakes, Produce, Bottle Tombola and Fair Trade Goods. More details will appear in the Church porch, and on village notice-boards; in the meantime, please contact Christine Vince, 863429.

Gardeners – would you please grow some plants for the Fair and bring them along. Marmalade makers – would you please make an extra pot (or two) for the Produce stall.

Christine Vince

### **ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, CLOSWORTH**

Easter Sunday is 20 April, and we hope to have our usual Good Friday All-ages Service on 18 April, with Cold X Buns at 10.00am. Please check nearer the time for other services in case of changes.

On 25 May, we hope to have our long promised SONGS OF PRAISE. It was to have taken place in the autumn, but the new organ took longer to install than expected, so instead of evensong we shall be holding Songs of Praise at 6.30pm. Please let me have your special hymns in good time. The service will be followed by light refreshments.

It has been suggested we start a group for very young children. If you are interested, please contact me.

Monica 862834

### **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 each 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 alternate Tuesday 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.

**Little Wheelers** Mother and Toddler Group meeting at the East Coker Hall each Tuesday (during term time) from 10.30am – 12.00pm. £2.50 per family to include coffee/tea and cake for the adults (with squash and biscuits for the children).

Kevin Chapman is available from Tuesday to Friday. He can be contacted on 07812726853 422594 or email [ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk) - Please do feel free to get in touch 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.com](http://www.eastcokerchapel.com)

*'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.'* John's Gospel, Chapter 1 verse 1 (NIV)

## **Village News**

### **PLANT SALE IN AID OF ST. MARGARET'S HOSPICE**

We will be holding our plant sale this year on **Saturday 24 May 2014 between 10.00am and 2.00pm at Weaver's Lodge, East Coker.**

Parking is very limited, so please park on the road near the school. The sale 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. There will be available large cardboard boxes for transporting plants.

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 off.

Looking forward to seeing you. Glenn and Christine Seymour 863961

## GOOSE SLADE FARM SHOP & TEA SHOP

With spring upon us Ant and Dec, our two resident Boer goats, are back in the paddock, and our lambs and goslings will soon be arriving.

We serve morning coffee, light lunches and cream teas in the Tea shop, and with warmer weather on the way we look forward to serving on the patio once again.

We have a special offer in the shop which changes weekly; to find out our offer of the week, either call in or check the website [www.thegoosefarm.com](http://www.thegoosefarm.com)

Our opening hours are Tuesday to Saturday 10.00am - 6.00pm. We look forward to serving you soon

The Dunnings 863735

## SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY

The mobile library route for East Coker is Tuesday, every four weeks, from 2.30pm - 2.50pm at the Helyar Arms, and 2.55pm - 3.10pm at Mill Close.

Further information from Libraries Direct 08453459177 or [www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries)

15 April

13 May

10 June

8 July

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## VILLAGE FETE SATURDAY 5 JULY 2014

We at East Coker Christian Fellowship are intending organising the Village Fete for **Saturday 5 July 2014**. Please note that this is reverting to the usual first Saturday in July. We will be looking to holding the Fete from 12noon until 4.00pm.

We are hoping to have many of our regular attractions (for example, Thomas the Tank Engine, The Jug Band, Children's Tent etc, etc) with a few new attractions as well (however, I'll defer listing those until we have confirmation that they can come!).

**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.**

**Please Note** that the charges for the tables/pitches are increased from previous years. A table in the East Coker Hall is priced at £2.00 per foot, frontage for pitches in the field £1.50 per foot.

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

## **COURTYARD CAFE**

Enjoy a warm home from home welcome and try our superb coffee and teas, home baked cakes, light lunches; egg and bacon rolls and pasties on Wednesdays.

Open Tuesday to Saturday 9.00am to 5.00pm.

Phone 863821 [www.courtyardcafeeastcoker.co.uk](http://www.courtyardcafeeastcoker.co.uk)

Allan and Sue Steele

## **STAMPS FOR C.L.I.C. (Cancer & Leukaemia in Children)**

A big thank you to everyone who took their used stamps to the Village Stores after Christmas. Please keep saving them as they are reused to make money for this charity, which funds vital research into childhood cancers.



## **EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL**

### **SSDC Local Plan**

Modifications to the Local Plan were approved by Full Council on 13 March 2014. Essentially, this proposed large scale building on two sites, namely 800 at East Coker and 765 at Primrose Lane, Upper Mudford.

The Local Planning Inspector will resume analysis of the modified plan in June.

### **Pavilion**

Refurbishments to the Pavilion are completed, resulting in another classroom for the Pre-School. This now leaves the existing meeting room free for community use. For further details, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01935 862062 or [clerk@eastcokerpc1.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:clerk@eastcokerpc1.wanadoo.co.uk)

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

Annette Beardsley and Paul Weston (Planning Consultant) have produced the report on the survey data and we are now gathering evidence related to those findings. This involves researching existing national and local policies, strategies and information. We then plan to offer the outcomes of the survey, together

with the related evidence, to the Parish at the Village Fete on 5 July 2014. This will be the final opportunity for parishioners to have their say before we produce the final submission, which should be ready in spring 2015. For more information, please contact Councillor Kath Wilson, 475029 or [kath.wilson@sky.com](mailto:kath.wilson@sky.com)

### **Parish Ranger**

We are grateful to our Parish Ranger for the work that he does in keeping our parish in good order. If you spot something that would benefit from his attention, please contact Councillor Bridget Sugg before 6.00pm on 863435; 07097621106; [bridget.sugg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bridget.sugg@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Drain clearance**

Councillors David Mead and Bridget Sugg have worked tirelessly to get the village drains cleared. It has been very difficult to get any support from the County Council for some of the work, so ECPC approved spending from our own funds for a private contractor to undertake the work. With the Councillors' guidance and supervision, this has finally been completed and it is hoped that the related flooding will be eliminated.

### **Youth Provision for East Coker**

Yeovil Town Council and adjacent Parishes have been working together to provide a youth provision for young people in the area. This has been necessitated by the withdrawal of the Somerset County Council Youth Provision. Some of our young people have already accessed this provision in other parts of the town. Councillor Rod Jones has applied for funding to cover the cost of a weekly session in East Coker for one year, and the outcome of this bid will be known later in the summer. However, the ECPC agreed to fund a 6-week pilot project provided by Active Learning and Skills. This will take place at the Pavilion starting towards the end of April, and will seek to provide structured activities for young people between 11 to 19 (including volunteering opportunities for the older young people). **Further information will be advertised within the Parish or contact Councillor Rod Jones on [rod@lightningtrainingsolutions.co.uk](mailto:rod@lightningtrainingsolutions.co.uk) or 473575**

### **Cemetery Chapel Repair**

ECPC have voted in favour of making money available to restore the inside of the roof of the Chapel in the Cemetery. This is a particularly complex task as there are 120 panels which all need to be removed and repaired, needing extensive scaffolding and specialist workers. It is hoped that the refurbishment will enable parishioners and visitors to continue to enjoy this building into the future.

Councillor Kath Wilson on behalf of East Coker Parish Council

## **EAST COKER RAINFALL REPORT**

Nationally, rainfall and storm records have been broken this winter. I have not compared my rainfall measurements with Mr Bingley's past records, but this winter's local recordings in North Coker must surely surpass these. My recordings commenced 1 January 2014 up until 25 March.

January followed the pattern of the previous month, rainfall was persistent throughout the month peaking at 30mm (over an 1in) in a 12-hour period overnight between 2 and 3 January. This was followed by a further 15mm (over ½in) on 4 January. Rain fell most days, the only exception being 19, 20, 22 and 24 January. The month finished with a further 15mm (over ½in) falling on 31 January. In all, a total of 216mm (8½ins) was recorded in North Coker for the month of January.

February's weather pattern mirrored January, with storms and heavy rainfall persisting throughout the month. A brief dry period between 1 and 3 of February was followed by more Atlantic storms systems with 15mm (over ½in) of rain falling on 5 February and with similar amounts on 13, 14 and 17 February. In the event February saw 184mm (7¼ins) of rain in North Coker.

The only consolation over this meteorological winter has been the mild temperatures, with frost a rare exception. This has been the fifth mildest winter since records began.

Finally, in early March high pressure started to build, and the nation was relieved to have two weeks of calm, often sunny, weather from 4 March to 20 March. The mild winter followed by sunny dry weather in March is allowing an early Spring. For the remaining days of the month, the Atlantic influence of our weather has reasserted itself, but by 25 March rainfall totals were far short of the previous two months at 42 mm (1½ins).

Ian Boswall

## HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING & REFUSE COLLECTIONS BANK HOLIDAY DAY CHANGES FOR 2014

**Easter: Usual collection day**  
Good Friday 18 April

**Revised collection day**  
Saturday 19 April

Easter Monday 21 April – Friday 25 April. All collections one day later, including Friday pick-ups on Saturday 26 April

**Early May Bank Holiday Monday 5 May – Friday 9 May**



All collections one day later, including Friday pick-ups on Saturday 10 May


**Spring Bank Holiday Monday 26 May – Friday 30 May**


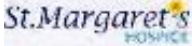
All collections one day later, including Friday pick-ups on Saturday 31 May

**Summer Bank Holiday Monday 25 August – Friday 29 August**

All collections one day later, including Friday pick-ups on Saturday 30 August



**Yeo Vale Rotary Club**  
A Special East Coker Night  
**April 11<sup>th</sup> 2014.**  
Our Distinguished Speaker is  
**Christopher Lewis**  
BAFTA award Winner & Former Long Term Producer of  
**The Antiques Roadshow**  
In aid of St. Margaret's Hospice & Macmillan Cancer Relief  
Time from 6.45pm until 10.30 pm  
Venue East Coker Village Hall  
A two course meal  
£15 per head  
Wine & soft drinks available  
**A Warm Fire, a Cup of Tea and The Antiques Roadshow**  
  
*We'll perhaps a glass of wine and a bite to eat!*  
Tickets from Mike Sperring 01935 862937 & Andy Irwin 01935 477675



## THE EAST COKER BULK OIL PURCHASE SCHEME

More of us than usual topped-up in January – 35,500 litres between 46 people. The price was good enough to tempt me to buy 500 litres and fill my tank. The heating oil price has been stable for the last 20 months or so, but who knows what Russia's activities might do to it. I certainly hadn't realised the UK buys most of its diesel from that source. The next order will be the fill-up in July/August.

If you're interested in the scheme please contact me, preferably by email [pauleddwards@waitrose.com](mailto:pauleddwards@waitrose.com) or 864413. Email makes it much easier and quicker to circulate information, and I do not divulge email addresses. I circulate an email reminder before co-ordinating each order.

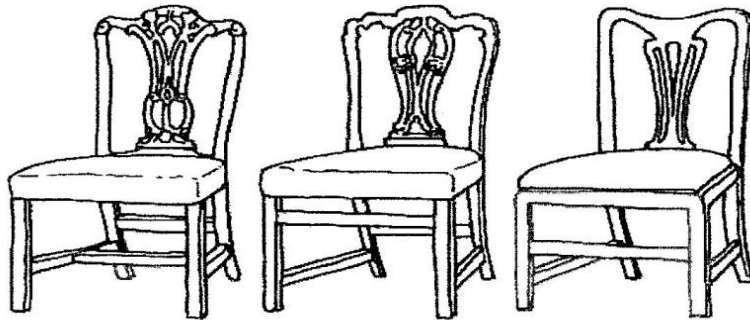
Paul Edwards

[www.eastcoker.com](http://www.eastcoker.com)

## NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **July 2014**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or e-mail [l.lindsay@eastcoker.com](mailto:l.lindsay@eastcoker.com), or to The Stores, East Coker, by **Tuesday 24 June 2014**.

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# QUARTERLY VILLAGE DIARY    JANUARY 2014 – March 2014

Wed 02 Apr	Wine Circle – Talk	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 04 Apr	The Players – Easter Bingo	7.00pm - 7.15pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 10 Apr	Bubbles and Treats	7.00pm	Yeovil Court Hotel
Thurs 10 Apr	Gardening Club – Clivias	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 14 Apr	Time To Share – Easter Bazaar	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 15 Apr	Library		
Thurs 17 Apr	W.I. – Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 24 Apr	W.I. – AGM	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 25 Apr	RBL – Cheese and Wine	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 25 Apr	Coffee Morning – Piers Simon Appeal	10.00am - 12.00pm	Forester's Arms
Sat 26 Apr	Scouts – Jumble Sale	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 28 Apr	Time To Share – Musical Instruments	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tue 29 Apr	Poetry Group – A Poem and a Picture	7.30pm	The Helyar Arms
Sat 3 May	Scouts – Waste Paper Collection	8.30am - 10.30am	Near the school
Wed 7 May	Wine Circle – Quiz Night	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 8 May	Gardening Club – Yeovil in Bloom	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 9 May	Gardening Club – Trip to Malvern Show		
Sat 10 May	Save East Coker – Big Band & Supper	From 7.30pm	Coker Court
Mon 12 May	Time To Share – Sochi	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 13 May	Library		
Sat 17 May	Spring Fair and Plant Sale	10.00am - 12.00pm	Hope House
Fri 16/Sat 17 May	The Players – Spring Production	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 19 May	E.C. Hall Charitable Trust – AGM	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 24 May	Plant Sale – St Margaret's Hospice	10.00am - 2.0pm	Weaver's Lodge
Thur 29 May	W.I. – Summer Puddings	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 30 May	Coffee Morning – Inner Wheel	10.00am - 12.00pm	Forester's Arms
Sat 31 May	Scouts – Waste Paper Collection	8.30am - 10.30am	Near the school
Mon 2 June	Time To Share – Salsa	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 4 June	Wine Circle – Wine Tasting	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 8 June	Afternoon Tea	2.00pm - 5.00pm	The Cordwell's
Tue 10 June	Library		
Thur 12 June	Gardening Club - Plants of South Africa	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 13 June	East Coker CPS – PTFA Summer Fair	6.00pm	The School
Sat 14 June	Save East Coker – Wandering Supper	6.30pm	
Mon 16 June	Time To Share – Outing		
<b>Tue 24 June</b>	<b>Copy for July Newsletter</b>		
Thur 26 June	W.I. – Outing		
Fri 27 June	Coffee Morning – Save East Coker	10.00am - 12.00pm	Forester's Arms
Sat 28 June	Scouts – Waste Paper Collection	8.30am - 10.30am	Near the school
Mon 30 June	Time To Share – Gill Holt	2.30pm	East Coker Hall