

East Coker Society Newsletter



April 2016

Free Issue No 162

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East Coker Society News

EAST COKER SOCIETY AGM

Our AGM will take place at 7.00pm on Wednesday, 18 May in the Helyar Arms. You are welcome to attend.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF WINTER FAYRE

East Coker Society's Winter Fayre will be held on Saturday, 29 October from 2.00pm to 4.00 pm. If you would like to reserve a table, please contact Sarah Owen on 862218.

VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY – PLEASE USE IT

The Village Events Diary is kept at the Courtyard Café. **Please put forthcoming village events in the Diary to avoid dates clashing.** Thank you.

Village Clubs and Organisations

ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

We are holding a Charity Dinner at The Northover, Ilchester on Saturday 30 April. This is a black tie event and the tickets are £40 each to include a welcome drink, three-course meal with complimentary wine, a speaker and dancing. Tickets are available from me on the details below or from our website www.action.org.uk/northover

Our popular Cream Teas will return again this year, with our local delivery taking place on Friday 17 June. Each box is £5, which will include two scones, jam, clotted cream, strawberries and a teabag, and can be delivered to your door. Our overnight delivery this year will be on Friday 1 July, and we are getting geared up to pack and send out over 5,000 boxes to businesses all over the country. Further details can be found on our website www.action.org.uk/cream-teas

For further details regarding any of the above, please contact Jane Donnelly on 478409 or jane@donnelly81.fsnet.co.uk

EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

The venue of the Poetry Group is liable to change at the present time and anyone wishing to attend the meetings should, please, check first on our website www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk

David Cloke

KURLING

Consideration is being given to forming a Kurling club/group in East Coker. If you would be interested, please contact Derek Farrant (07891 038614) or Helen Styles 862447. Formation will be dependent on numbers of people interested

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 MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

The year has started well, with the January coffee morning generating £203 for Help for Heroes. In February, the event was also very successful and a total of £500 was collected for the RNLI.

The forthcoming events will be for:

- Save East Coker, on Friday 29 April
- East Coker Players, on Friday 27 May
- Cystic Fibrosis, on Friday 24 June

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

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313 Penny Marpole 863055

"Thanks to you from the RNLI"

In 2015, the lifeboats launched 8,228 times, rescued 7,973 people and saved 348 lives. The RNLI Lifeguards rescued 18,181 people saving a further 94 lives. In stormy seas or on sunny beaches, the brave crews and lifeguards are on call to save lives thanks to the voluntary support from fundraising activities.

Thank you to all who helped organise, donated cakes, prizes or money and who came to the Coffee Morning in the Forester's Arms on Friday, 26 February. The entry and raffle raised £313.50, with donations taking the grand total to £500.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER

Date for diaries Friday 15 April, Cheese & Wine evening, 7.30pm East Coker Hall.

The RBL is a national charity helping people in local communities. We help people every day of the year, but we only raise about a third of the money we need through the Poppy Appeal.

We rely on the help of brilliant supporters in our fundraising but at the same time we must not forget our volunteers and members who are the lifeblood of the Legion. Whilst our Branch is thriving with around 100 members, we always welcome new blood.

Anyone can join the Legion (you do not need to have served in the military) and at £16 per year, your money will be helping our service personnel and their families.

There are now high street information and advice centres in towns and cities across the UK. The number to ring is **0808 802 8080**, calls are free. We hope these centres will help alleviate the problem of ex-service personnel sleeping on the streets, which we constantly hear about through the media.

Please join us at our Cheese & Wine evening. We would love to see you and say Thank You.

David Holland, Chairman 862782 email d.holland632@btinternet.com

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TIME TO SHARE

We meet every other Monday afternoon in the East Coker Hall. We have excellent speakers and lots of fun. Please come and give it a try.

If you need transport, please contact Barbara Cloke on 862623.

Diary dates

Monday, 4 April	Top Food Tips (like Paul and Mary)
Monday, 18 April	Sing-along-a-Brian
Monday, 25 April	Road Safety
Monday, 9 May	Knit and Knatter
Monday, 23 May	Books (bring along your best one)
Monday, 6 June	Fit for Life with the W.I.
Monday, 20 June	Outing to Sidmouth/Ottery
Monday, 4 July	Garden Party and Birthday Party

Sandra Snelling 862162, mobile 07717 723448, email sandra.snelling@googlemail.com

EAST COKER PLAYERS

Our Easter Bingo in March raised £215. We hope to purchase a backstage sound system so that during productions we can hear in the Dampier Room. Thank you to everyone who supported us.

We have decided to make a £100 donation to Children's Hospice South West, Charlton Farm, Wraxhall, North Somerset, from the Pantomime.

There will be no meeting in April, and our May meeting will be a backstage visit to the Swan Theatre, Yeovil on Thursday, 5 May 2016.

Dates for your diaries

We will be holding a coffee morning on Friday, 27 May 2016 at the Forester's Arms, Holywell, East Coker, 10.00am to 12noon. Coffee/Tea and cake £2.50.

Our Pantomime this year will be Snow White, directed by Ian White. The first read-through will be on Monday, 4 July 2016 in the Dampier Room at 7.00pm.

For further details, contact Anne Hartley 862060 or Hazel Giddings 429163

SAVE EAST COKER

I thought you might like to know the current situation with the proposed development of just under 800 houses at Keyford. At present, South Somerset District Council is considering an outline planning application from John Bishop's company. This application covers many aspects of how the development will impact on the local environment and is therefore, very complex.

It is currently under consideration by the Council's Planning Department, and they are forecasting they should be ready to report back to Councillors sometime in June. They will then consider the application and vote on it around the same time. I will keep you informed and up to date as much as possible.

We have two fundraising activities planned for this quarter:

- **Sunday 17 April - Big Brunch** at East Coker Hall 9.00am - 1.00pm (last orders at 12.30pm). **Tickets** £8 Adults; £4 Under 16's; Free, children under 2 years, available now from Sandi Wintersgill on 864342 or any member of the Fundraising Team.
- **Saturday 4 June - Wandering Supper.** Tickets available, soon, from **Di Miskin** 862854. If you would like to host a course, or just be a guest for the night, please contact Di on the above number. This year we have pre-dinner drinks at Coker Court courtesy of Joe and Tanya Coles, and liqueurs at The Priory after the supper courtesy of John and Bronwyn Fysh. How lucky are we?

I hope you will support one or both of these events, as we still have to repay many loans. Thank you.

Best wishes to you all for a Happy and Prosperous 2016 and all our debts paid!

Sandra 862162

t. 01935 862162

m. 07717 723448

e. sandra.snelling@googlemail.com

EAST COKER DISCUSSION GROUP

The Discussion Group is now in its second year. There are currently just four people taking part and we would ideally like to have one or two more. The purpose of the group is to share and explore ideas and beliefs. It is not to provide a platform for members to promote their own ideas and beliefs with the aim of persuading others of them. We hope to explore the political, cultural, moral, religious and practical issues which underpin particular ideas and beliefs, with the aim of equipping ourselves better to understand them.

The Group is about exploring ideas, not debating them in an adversarial way. We intend the atmosphere to be supportive and 'unpressured'. Meetings are expected to last for about an hour, but with the option of continuing for a further half hour should enough members wish. Would anyone interested in becoming a member of the group please contact John Field on 07890 375780 or email jcmfield@hotmail.com

We tend to meet towards the end of the month, on a Thursday, commencing at 11.00am (but we are reasonably flexible!). Topics discussed over this year include "The state of democracy in Britain", "Is the Citizen's Wage feasible?", "Freedom of Speech", "How do we/ our country/ our world deal with ISIS?"

EAST COKER READING GROUP

We are a group of eight people who meet once a month, usually on a Tuesday evening, to talk about the book we have been reading the previous month – unless the book was not very interesting, in which case we talk about anything that comes to mind! As the Library charges Reading Groups a monthly fee we, in turn, charge a fee of £1 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!

During the course of 2015, we read books such as "Never let me go" by Kazuo Ishiguro, "Old Filth" by Jane Gardam and "A man called Ove" by Fredrik Backman. If you are considering joining the group or wish to have more details of the books we read and what we do, please do contact Kevin Chapman on 07812 726853 or 422594 or email ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk

BURTON BOOK CLUB

We are a group of ten people who meet once a month, usually on a Wednesday afternoon for one hour. We currently meet over coffee/tea at Goose Slade Farm Tea Shop. In addition to the £1 per month fee for books, we also put £2 into a 'kitty' to pay for drinks and, when funds allow, have a 'free' month.

Over the course of 2015, we have read books such as "Quartet in Autumn" by Barbara Pym, "The Time Keeper" by Mitch Albom and Thomas Hardy's "Far from the Madding Crowd". Otherwise, what is said about the East Coker Reading Group holds good for the Burton Book Club, and the same contact details apply; Kevin Chapman on 07812 726853 or 422594, or email ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk

FILMS AT EAST COKER HALL

The first showing of films at East Coker Hall was extremely successful, with 75 people attending to watch 'Suffragette'. Hopefully 'Lady in the Van' (24 March) will be just as successful.

The programme for the next three months is:

Wednesday, 27 April	Brooklyn (12A)
Wednesday, 25 May	Bridge of Spies (12A)
Wednesday, 29 June	Spotlight (15PG)

Venue: East Coker Hall, Halves Lane, East Coker. Doors open 7.00pm. Curtains open 7.30pm. Tickets £6 on the door.

For information, contact John Hollis 863002; Clive Murrell 862827; Helen Styles 862447

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EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

Membership of the East Coker Gardening Club continues to be strong. Members have enjoyed a variety of talks during the first three months of 2016. In January, we heard about plants for medicinal and culinary purposes; the speaker in February covered plant conservation and explained what was involved in becoming a holder of a national plant collection; March took us on a tour of gardens near to home and much further afield.

The programme for the next four months:

Thursday, 14 April	Birds in Flight - a photographic Adventure - talk by John Crabb
Thursday, 12 May	The Jurassic Coast and its Hinterland - talk by Tony Burges
Thursday, 9 June	Midney Gardens - talk by David Chase and Alison Hoghton

A guided tour of Cadhay Manor, followed by tea, is planned for Tuesday, 21 June, with a stop on the way at Otter Nurseries.

In August, the Club will enjoy a day at the Taunton Flower Show.

Meetings, trips and the annual holiday are all very well supported. New members and visitors are always welcome. We are a friendly lot – why not join us for an enjoyable, sociable evening? You do not need to be good at gardening; talks cover a wide variety of subjects. The annual subscription is £12, 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, East Coker.

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

EAST COKER FLOWER SHOW AND WINE FESTIVAL

The Show will be held on Saturday, 20 August 2016. We welcome old and new exhibitors. The schedules will be out soon. Here are some of the new classes:

- Vegetables – any Root Vegetable. Dish of any Soft Fruit. Apples.
- Flowers – Patio Container. Collection of 4 different Annuals - 1 stem of each.
- Floral Art – Queens 90th Birthday. All Foliage – Arrangement in a basket.
- Arrangement in an item of footwear. Arrangement on a Candlestick.
- Homecraft – Cherry Genoa Cake. Four Sausage rolls.
- Children 5 years and under – a colourful flower picture made from shapes. A largest leaf.
- Children 6-9 years – a painted pebble; four decorated cupcakes; a Lego model; a decorated hard-boiled egg.
- Children 10-13 years – a painted flower pot; four decorated fairy cakes; a Lego figure in a shoe box lid; arrangement of flowers in a jam jar; design your own bug hotel on A4 paper.
- Photography classes – Water. Down the Garden. Caught in the Act. Ruins. Little and Large. Statues x 4.

Please enter if you can, as it is a Village event. Any questions, tel Sarah Rashley 428639



POT LUCK PLANTS

A constantly changing selection of seasonal bedding plants & perennials raised & lovingly tended in East Coker.

For early 2016, cheerful pots of miniature narcissi, iris, grape hyacinths, primroses & primulas.

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Pot Luck Plants can be found at Goose Slade Farm Shop, Halstock Shop & Hamish's Farm shop.

or

Visits to the polytunnel to see for yourself!
Enquiries, contact Kate on 07796991592.

EAST COKER VILLAGE QUIZ 2016

The Eleventh Annual Village Quiz was held in East Coker Hall on 19 March. Seventeen teams of eight competed in an evening of questions which tested their knowledge on subjects ranging from The Animal Kingdom to the Reign of Queen Elizabeth II. In the interval, an excellent fish-and-chip supper was enjoyed by all.

This year The Dregs team (from the EC Wine Circle!) was victorious, with the Young Duffers team as runners-up.

A good selection of prizes was generously donated for the raffle which was well supported and contributed towards the overall proceeds for the event, which came to a total of £700. This will be donated to the charities nominated by last year's joint winners – East Coker Scouts Group, which is raising funds for an extension to the Scout hut, and Sutton Bingham church fabric fund.

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

Next year's quiz will be on Saturday 11 March 2017.

Martyn and Cherry Sowerbutts, 863313


THE EAST COKER BULK OIL PURCHASE SCHEME

In January, 49 of us ordered 41,250 litres of oil at 21.95ppl. As it turned out, the sensible ones were those who filled their tanks. The asking price then was 23.70ppl and had just started to rise. It's now (22 March) 31.64ppl. We used to say 'Fill up in the summer and top up in the winter'. Now I wouldn't like to guess where the price will be by the summer. Our next order will be in July/August.

Before you ask, I just do the donkey-work; collating the requirements, ringing round the suppliers and placing the order. You pay the supplier directly. Please note that with some suppliers the delivery note is also the request for payment and there may be a surcharge if you don't pay promptly. If you have already taken part and found it worthwhile, encourage your friends and neighbours to join in. The more we can order, the better the price.

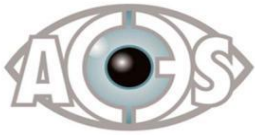
To participate or with any questions, contact me, preferably by email pauleddwards@waitrose.com, or 864413. Email makes it much easier and quicker to circulate information, and I do not divulge email addresses. I circulate an email reminder before co-ordinating each order.

Paul Edwards

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EAST COKER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our new programme has now been finalised for 2016-17 and promises to be packed with many interesting speakers, ranging from historical interest in fairgrounds, dances and kitchen maids, through Tai Chi, magic, real owls and much more.

The birthday outing on 30 June will be a visit to the beautiful RHS Rosemoor Gardens in Devon and also the Dartington Glass-blowing works, followed by a cream tea.

We have recently taken advantage of the Somerset County Council's offer of equipment designed to encourage the more senior members of the community to keep active. The sessions are held at the East Coker Hall on a Monday afternoon once a month and are open to all, with refreshments provided. Please see the W.I. notice board in the Hall for dates and times.

The monthly Whist Drives finish for the Summer months after Thursday 21 April and will restart again in September. For any further information please contact secretary Ruby Rollo on 475010

Diary dates

Thursday, 28 April	AGM with a Beetle Drive
Monday, 2 May	Exercise with fun 2.00pm
Thursday, 26 May	Make-up session 7.30pm
Monday, 13 June	Exercise with fun 2.00pm
Thursday, 30 June	Outing

EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

For Wine Circle members, we are fast approaching the end of our year, and what a good period it's turning out to be! Several of us enjoyed a trip to 'Evita', and a group of us managed to eat out together prior to the show. The very next day the Circle team in the Village Quiz, 'The Dregs' managed to come away winners! What a good way to spend a weekend.

Our April meeting (6th) will be preceded by training on the defibrillator. The fact that the talk to follow will be about taking part in a triathlon is purely co-incidental! Dr Matt Phelan from Sherborne will be telling us of his experiences.

In May, from our 'Pandora's Box' in the programme, will be a visit by Kate from 'Hamish' to tell us about the new venture. We're hoping this will be quite a tasty evening on 4 May.

The AGM is on 1 June with a tasting, as well as the annual competition which will also include a cake section. (Recipe from committee members).

The first event for your diaries in our new year is our Summer Event on Sunday, 24 July at the East Coker Hall at lunchtime. More details nearer the time.

Do join us at any of our meetings – 1st Wednesday of the month at 8.00pm in the East Coker Hall.

Anne and Barrie Hartley – joint Chairmen (!) - 862060

Young People

EAST COKER PTFA - Thank you!

On Saturday 19 March, East Coker CP School PTFA organised a family village walk. Now in its third year, it is a well attended event. In addition to spotting the nine giant, decorated, rabbits around the route there is a quiz, scavenger hunt, barbeque, raffle, Easter bonnet and egg decorating competitions and refreshments.

The route is circular, starting and finishing at the school, and this year we were able to co-ordinate with a local village plan meeting.

The PTFA would like to thank the village for their support and enthusiasm for this event. It really does allow the school to get out into, and become part of, the wider village community. We would also like to thank Sue and Alan of the Courtyard Café for looking after our 10th Rabbit, and advertising the event.

Katie Parham

EAST COKER PRIMARY SCHOOL

I cannot believe that we have come to the end of my first term as head teacher at East Coker School. We have had such a busy time, including World Book Day events, taking part in many sports competitions, special visitors helping to bring our curriculum to life and fundraising events for local and national charities.

I am writing this after spending a brilliant day helping to serve hot dogs at our Easter Bunny Hunt. It was lovely to see so many families taking part in walks around the village to find the large bunny rabbits decorated by our children. Events like this signify what being part of the East Coker school community is like. It is one of friendliness, teamwork, challenge (for those who took the long way round) and fun!

Our children get many opportunities to develop their sporting skills through competitive events in football, netball, rugby, cricket and cross country thanks to Mr Pittard's hard work organising events and clubs. We have been particularly successful this term with our cross country events with two pupils achieving the accolade of Yeovil Champion as well as winning the Y3/4 girls Area League. We have also had successes in the local area competitions in futsal, hockey, netball, basketball and tag rugby!

Our next inspiring event is our Spring Music Concert led by our Year 6 teacher Carla Bailey. The theme is James Bond! The children will be putting on a highly professional music spectacular with performances from choir, orchestra and some very talented individuals. It is not something I have seen done to this level before in a primary school.

In addition to all these wonderful events, we have also set up our brand new website, www.eastcoker.co.uk so please have a look at what we have been up to on our gallery pages in the children's section. There are some photos of some artwork from our amazing young artists in Mr Rhode's class who have used oil paints to create their version of an impressionist masterpiece. They are truly remarkable!

I have learned this term that East Coker staff and the PTFA like to do things to an impressive level. Next term is no exception! We not only continue with our many sports competitions and sports days, but we also have our enrichment week in June which will include a music day and art exhibitions from all our children.

In addition to this, we have our very popular Summer Fair on Friday 17 June from 6.00pm which you are warmly invited to attend.

Have a cracking Easter!

Jane Hesketh-Williams, Head Teacher



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The Playgroup children have had a busy Spring Term. They have investigated the Five Senses in the first half-term and explored Natural Materials in the second half-term. The children enjoyed raising funds with a Sponsored Pancake challenge in February, and will be having a Easter Egg hunt with a coffee morning for parents and carers on the last day of term. Over the past months, an exciting project has been evolving at the Pavilion. A grant secured from the Big Lottery Fund has been used to fence an outside play area, with an inner section created to provide a mud kitchen play area and raised beds in which the children will be able to grow fruit and vegetables. This will greatly enhance the children's play and learning opportunities, and enable them to develop valuable life skills. The playgroup extends many thanks to all involved in this beneficial project.

Fundraising is essential in supporting the playgroup, and will enable the playgroup to maintain the outside space and facilitate the children's educational summer outing. Our next fundraiser is the Annual Playgroup Fair which will be held on the afternoon of Saturday, 21 May 2016 from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, at the Pavilion, Long Furlong Lane, East Coker. There will be various stalls, a raffle, BBQ and refreshments. Please come along for lunch, and stay for the afternoon, 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 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 an afternoon session 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, and 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 Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, with optional lunch cover for children who like to bring a packed lunch. Find us at www.eastchinnockunder5spreschool.co.uk

Stop Press: East Coker Playgroup to offer Summer Holiday Sessions in July and August.

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

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

This term's activities seem to revolve around making things; the Hut has been filled with clay models by the Beavers and wooden bird boxes from the Cubs. The Scouts successfully passed their Emergency Aid Stage 3 badge and have been cooking on hike stoves.

The Scouts have entered the Fox Trophy in April - this is a weekend competition hike where they carry all their equipment over a 15 - 25 mile course. They are self-sufficient for food, tents and cooking equipment. Another important aspect is to complete a log book detailing their hike with route, observations, menus, team members and equipment.

For the Cubs it is the 100 Year Celebration since the section was started. They have a three-day camp over the May Bank Holiday weekend, with activities ranging from monkey rope bridge to fair trading to circus skills. It's great to welcome Glen as our new Assistant Cub Leader.

Our numbers continue to be high, with all sections nearing capacity - the Hut can get very noisy when full of boisterous, excited young people!

Which brings us to the Hut extension. It will give us new toilets, cloakroom and entrance and allow us to create a 'quiet room' where the current kitchen is. This will give a great lift to the Hut and allow us to

provide a wider range of activities at the same time. We now have the funds to build the external aspects – that is, to create the waterproof outsides - and we hope to start the building work in May/June. This element should take about 3 to 4 weeks. We are continuing to raise the money to allow us to knock through into the main building and complete the interior fittings.

We are extremely grateful for all the support from the village - including the recent Village Quiz winners - as there is much yet to be updated within the Hut.

Waste Paper Collections:

The collection point is opposite the school on the **last Saturday** of each month from 8.30 am to 10.30 am. If possible, please flat-pack your newspapers and tie into bundles:

Saturday 30 April

Saturday 28 May

Saturday 25 June

Spring Jumble Sale – Saturday 9 April at 2.00pm at East Coker Hall. Please contact Max Bugler 862186 if you wish anything collected.

David Webber

The Churches

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

After what seemed a very long interregnum, we finally welcomed Colin Simpson as our new rector for the Coker Ridge Benefice. Those of you that attended his service at the end of February will know what a happy and joyous occasion that was. We welcomed Bishop Peter from Bath and Wells to lead our service, and then enjoyed a reception at Coker Court by kind permission of Joe and Tanya Cole.

Our children's worker Ellie continues to develop her work among the children and young families in the parish. She held a very successful Easter Workshop and also hosted some children and parents from the local playgroup for a visit to the church. If you would like to know more about Ellie's work, please contact us on the number below.

The church looked beautiful for Easter, thanks to the ladies who decorated St Michael's. Sadly, we said goodbye to Mary Glover, who has cleaned the church for many years. We thank her for her commitment to ensuring St Michael's always looked spick and span. Hopefully, we will soon find someone to take on the role.

If you would like to find out more about St Michael's and our revised service schedule now we have our new rector, please contact the number below.

Judith Shaw, Churchwarden, 863218

Further information about St Michael's can be found at our website www.eastcokerchurch.org.uk

ST MICHAEL'S SPRING FAIR AND PLANT SALE.

This year's Spring Fair and Plant Sale will take place on Saturday 14 May from 10.00am – 12.00pm at The Vicarage Lawn. Entrance £1 to include a drink and biscuit.

All donations of plants, vegetables, cakes, marmalade and produce will be gratefully received.

Mike and Wendy Weston 862472

EAST COKER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, BURTON LANE

After nine years as Pastor of ECCF, Kevin will be stepping down from the role at the end of August. It was really good to be part of the celebrations at St Michael's to welcome the new Rector, Reverend Colin Simpson. We pray that his ministry will be a blessing to him and to the whole Benefice.

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

Please Note: On the last Sunday in each of the months March to August (inclusive) we will be holding our Sunday morning service at the East Coker Hall.

Little Wheelers Mother and Toddler Group meeting at the East Coker Hall each Tuesday (during term time) from 10.30am - 12.00pm. £3.00 per family, to include coffee/tea and cake for the adults (with squash and biscuits for the children). There are also regular Craft activities. Parents and guardians are responsible for their child's welfare.

We also run **Home Groups** on alternate Tuesday evenings for anyone who may be interested in discussing the Christian faith.

Coffee Stop The Hall is open each Wednesday from 11.00am until 1.00pm for coffee and tea. There are usually some 10 to 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.

Girls' Get-Together On a Thursday (most months) we hold a GG-T in the evening at the Chapel, generally consisting of a meal and a demonstration or talk (or both). These are generally very well attended, with around 30-45 ladies of all ages attending.

If you have any queries about the Fellowship or about the Christian faith in general, please have a word with Kevin Chapman. He can be contacted on 07812726853 or 422594 or email ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk Alternatively you may wish to look at our website on www.eastcokerchapel.com

'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Philippians, Chapter 4 verse 13

Village News

PLANT SALE – Weavers Lodge, East Coker in aid of St. Margaret's Hospice

Our annual plant sale will be held on **Saturday, 21 May 2016** between 10.00am and 2.00pm. 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, which will also include planted baskets this year. There will be large cardboard boxes for transporting plants, but please could I ask that you bring plastic bags if required. I'm sorry, but there will be no sales before the 21st.

Raffle tickets will be sold on the day and drawn at the end of the sale. Excellent prizes, including filled planter, basket of fruit, vouchers etc.

We have had many successful years, and we are hoping this year will also be well attended. Last year, we had to call on the services of the Hospice and can only praise them for the work they do, they helped us through a very difficult time.

Hope to see you on the 21st.

Glenn and Christine Seymour

HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING & REFUSE COLLECTIONS – EASTER AND MAY BANK HOLIDAYS

Early May Bank holiday (Monday 2 May), all collections one day later. Spring Bank Holiday (Monday 30 May), all collections one day later.

STAMPS FOR C.L.I.C.\SARGENT (Cancer & Leukaemia in Children)

A very big 'thank you' to everyone who saves their used stamps. The Courtyard Café will now accept them, so please save all your stamps for this worthy cause as they are reused to make money for this charity, which funds vital research into childhood cancers.

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EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

Grant Aids are available from the East Coker Parish Council for the benefit of East Coker Parishioners. If you have a parish group which would benefit, please email the Clerk for further details or download the application form from our website.

Well done to East Coker Cockerels U12 team who have successfully got to the final of the High Holburn Cup. They needed to raise £1,500 to meet playing obligations. They have approached the Parish Council for a grant and it was agreed by full Council to give them the full £500 grant available. Good Luck at the game.

New Fun Time weekly 2-hour activity sessions, for ages 5 to 11, will start on 14 April, 5.00pm – 7.00pm. Entry will be £2.50 per child.

New benches for the Pavilion and play area have now been installed.

Drain jetting has now been completed and we are looking into an annual maintenance programme. Please contact the Clerk if you spot any blocked drains. Maintenance of the Chapel cemetery is ongoing. Further updates to follow.

The Pavilion repairs continue, with more guttering and outside electrical sockets. If you would like to book the Pavilion, please contact the Clerk.

Councillors contact details are on our website, www.eastcokerparish.com. The Parish Clerk can be reached on 864354 or email clerk@eastcokerparish.com.

Save the dates

- Wednesday, 11 May, Annual Parishioner Meeting, 8.00pm at the Pavilion. Come along and meet your councillors and have a glass of wine.
- Sunday, 12 June, Queens 90th Birthday Celebration Picnic at the Pavilion. Noon till 4pm. Children's Entertainment will be provided.

EAST COKER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE APRIL 2016

Work has progressed over the past months on the continuation of the East Coker Neighbourhood Plan. The Plan Group has been busy writing the draft plan, developing and fine tuning the policies relating to housing, employment and business, community facilities, the built and natural environment and transport that will help guide decisions on future planning applications. A draft document has been presented to

SSDC and they are happy in principle with our work. It is available for you to read but will be posted on the Parish Council website as soon as it is reviewed following our recent Open Day Event.

A survey has also been undertaken to identify possible areas of 'Local Greenspace' within the village that will be identified in the Plan and we have met with Somerset Highways to discuss traffic issues which will be included.

A schedule of projects and actions is also being drawn up to go with the Plan, based on ideas put forward by the community and developed by the Plan Group, and which could include ideas for:

- Improved Footpaths and Signing
- An information and interpretation plan to include panels about East Coker's history to supplement existing ones, as well as updates of guided walks leaflets
- A car park for school drop off/pick up
- Speed control signs at the entrances to the village
- ***Other ideas for projects would be welcomed***

We held a Parish 'Drop in Day' event on 19 March when a new exhibition was on show together with copies of the current version Draft Plan, although this is still very much 'work in progress'. Over 50 people attended this event, which helped explain the Plan and ensure as many people as possible were well informed. Please let me know if you would like to see copies of any items that were on display.

The next stage will be for the Plan to be subject to formal Consultation with a wide range of authorities and agencies as well as the public. This will be for a six week period probably during May and June. It will then be submitted to South Somerset District Council who will arrange for the Plan to be 'Examined' by an independent Planning Inspector and also subject to a local Referendum when over 50% of those voting have to support the Plan, for it to be finally adopted or 'Made'. This does all take time, but the Plan will then be used by both the Parish and District Councils to help determine planning applications within the Parish. The Neighbourhood Plan will then be part of the overall 'Development Plan' for the area, so you can see how important it is.

Sandra Snelling, Chair East Coker Neighbourhood Plan Group



CPRE SOMERSET CALLS FOR A GREEN BELT AROUND YEOVIL

The Campaign to Protect Rural England Somerset Branch ('CPRE Somerset') is calling for the creation of a Yeovil Green Belt to ensure that the town continues to enjoy sufficient green amenity space, and to prevent unrestricted urban sprawl resulting in the merger of the town and its surrounding hamstone villages - villages that at the moment add very much to the character of this part of South Somerset.

Yeovil and the Yeovil area in South Somerset face unprecedented development pressures, particularly from new housing. The District Council's Local Plan provides for 15,950 houses in South Somerset, with over 1,500 houses allocated for Yeovil in two urban extensions at Upper Mudford and Keyford. This is on top of the hundreds of houses already built or for which permission has been granted. Currently the District

Council is also facing a plethora of speculative applications on sites not allocated in the Local Plan because it does not have the required 5-year housing land supply, despite the adopted Local Plan being only a year old. The Broadacres site in North Coker is just the latest example of this.

CPRE nationally is campaigning for the protection of existing Greenbelts and the creation of new ones. There are no Green Belts in Somerset and they are now needed because of the amount of development taking place. Councils need to ensure that all these new houses have sufficient amenity and green space, and not just within developments such as play areas and similar. People also need to be able to get out into the countryside proper and Green Belts are a town's 'green lungs'. South Somerset District Council needs to factor a Yeovil Green Belt into its review of the Local Plan, a review that is currently under way.

CPRE Somerset has started an online petition enabling people to show their support for this campaign: https://www.change.org/p/south-somerset-district-council-yygb-yes-to-yeovil-green-belt?recruiter=483635902&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copylink

The support of local parish councils and Yeovil Town Council is also being canvassed. So far, East Coker, Mudford, West Coker and Brympton Parish Councils have all indicated their support in principle to a Yeovil Green Belt. Other parish councils are still to be seen.

This campaign is at a very early stage. Where precisely a Green Belt would go, how far it would extend etc. are all 'work in progress' for future discussion.

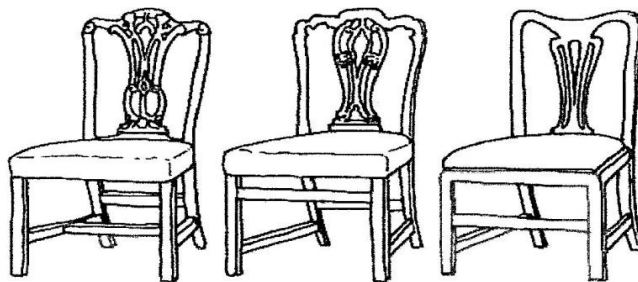
Nicholas Whitsun-Jones, Chair, South Somerset District Group, CPRE Somerset

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **July 2016**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or email l.lindsay@eastcoker.com, by **Wednesday 22 June 2016**.

KEN MARSH

u p h o l s t e r y



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Mon 4 Apr	Time To Share – Top Food Tips	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 6 Apr	Wine Circle – Defibrillator Training	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 9 Apr	The Scouts – Jumble	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 14 Apr	Gardening Club – Birds in Flight	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 15 Apr	RBL – Cheese & Wine	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 17 Apr	Save East Coker – Big Brunch	9.00am – 1.00pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 18 Apr	Time To Share – Sing-a-long	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 21 Apr	W.I. – Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 25 Apr	Time To Share – Road Safety	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 27 Apr	Film – Brooklyn	7.00pm for 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 28 Apr	W.I. – AGM	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 29 Apr	Coffee Morning – Save East Coker	10.00 – 12.00pm	The Forester's Arms
Sat 30 Apr	Scouts – Waste Paper Collection	8.30am – 10.30am	Near the school
Sat 30 Apr	Action Medical Research - Charity Dinner		Northover Manor
Mon 2 May	W.I. – Exercise	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 4 May	Wine Circle – Hamish Farm Shop	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 9 May	Time To Share – Knit & Knatter	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 11 May	ECPC – Annual Parishioners Meeting	8.00pm	The Pavilion
Thurs 12 May	Gardening Club – Jurassic Coast	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 14 May	St Michael's Church – Plant Sale	10.00am – 12.00pm	The Vicarage
Wed 18 May	East Coker Society – AGM	7.00pm	The Helyar Arms
Sat 21 May	Plant Sale	10.00am – 2.00pm	Weaver's Lodge
Sat 21 May	Playgroup – Fair	12.30pm - 3.30pm	The Pavilion
Mon 23 May	Time To Share – Books	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 25 May	Film – Bridge of Spies	7.00pm for 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 26 May	W.I. – Make-up Session	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 27 May	Coffee Morning – East Coker Players	10.00am – 12.00pm	The Forester's Arms
Sat 28 May	Scouts – Waste Paper Collection	8.30am – 10.30am	Near the school
Wed 1 June	Wine Circle – Competition	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 4 June	Save East Coker – Wandering Supper		
Mon 6 June	Time To Share – Fit For Life	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 9 June	Gardening Club – Midney Gardens	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 12 June	ECPC – The Queen's 90 th Birthday Celebrations Picnic at the Pavilion	12 noon – 4.00pm	The Pavilion
Mon 13 June	W.I. – Exercise	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 17 June	Action Medical Research – Cream Teas		
Fri 17 June	East Coker Primary School - Summer Fair	6.00pm	The School
Mon 20 June	Time to Share – Outing/Birthday		
Wed 22 June	Copy for July Newsletter		
Fri 24 June	Coffee Morning – Cystic Fibrosis	10.00am – 12.00pm	The Forester's Arms
Sat 25 June	Scouts – Waste Paper Collection	8.30am – 10.30am	Near the school
Wed 29 June	Film – Spotlight	7.00pm for 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thur 30 June	W.I. – Outing		
Mon 4 July	Time To Share – Garden Party		