

East Coker Society Newsletter



April 2018

Free Issue No 170

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East Coker Society News

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

East Coker Society has been issuing news for the Parish since its formation in 1975. In those days, it was a simple broadsheet. Nowadays, we have far more clubs and organisations to issue communications for, so our editions are very much longer.

We are grateful to all those readers who receive their Newsletters by email as this saves us considerable time and cost printing, collating and delivering paper copies. If your household is still receiving a paper copy, then please help us to improve our green credentials by receiving your Newsletter by email. There is also the added advantage of receiving up-to-date news of events between our quarterly issues.

To sign up for email copies, it is a simple matter of emailing Lesley at l.lindsay@eastcoker.com and providing your full name and postal address. All personal details are secured and will not be disclosed to anyone else.

EAST COKER SOCIETY AGM

Our AGM will take place at 6.30pm on Wednesday 16 May in the Helyar Arms. You are most welcome to attend.

EAST COKER SOCIETY WINTER FAYRE

This is advance notice of our Annual Winter Fayre on Saturday 27 October. If you would like to reserve a place, please contact Sarah Owen on 01935 862218.

Village Clubs and Organisations

EAST COKER PLAYERS

At our AGM in January, members decided to make charity donations of £100 to School in a Bag and Yeovil Opportunity Group, from our Aladdin pantomime production. We also gave St John Ambulance £75 for attendance. We presented our cheques to representatives at our March meeting.

In February, we held a video evening watching our recent productions, and in March we held a workshop designing totem poles and wigwams.

Our next monthly meeting is Monday 4 June at 7.00pm, with a Wild West theme.

Players are currently looking for anyone one who would like to produce something for spring 2019 and/or future Pantomimes. Anyone interested would be fully supported by the knowledgeable production committee. If interested, please do contact us.

Anne 862060. Hazel 429163.

East Coker Players need more members for Pantomime

This year's Pantomime is 'Calamity Dame'. It is set in the Wild West, and should be great fun with lots of different parts and songs to sing.

If you would like to join us, you need to be over 8 years old - older brothers, sisters, mums and dads are welcome too. Pantomime is a fun activity for all the family to be involved in. We hold rehearsals in the Dampier Room on Mondays and some Wednesdays, 7.00pm – 8.45pm. We have Sunday afternoon rehearsals on the two Sundays before the show.

The show is on Friday 30 November and twice on Saturday 1 December 2018. We will provide your costumes and make sure you know what you have to do.

A script read-through will be held on 2 July at 7.00pm in the Dampier Room, and rehearsals start on 5 September at 6.30pm.

If you are interested or require any further information, contact Anne Hartley on 862060.

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EAST COKER FLOWER SHOW SATURDAY 18 AUGUST 2018

The schedules will be out soon, and hopefully the weather will start to warm the ground, for planting. Crafters are hopeful, crafting in front of a warm fire.

The photography classes are:

Class 70 – Any photo taken by young person up to 16 years old; Class 71 – Beach Art; Class 72 – Fire; Class 73- Play; Class 74 – Entrance; Class 75- Black and White Portrait; Class 76 – four photos of Footwear.

There are lots more classes including the groups award again, this year it is a decorated wooden spoon. Good Luck! Sarah Rashley

BURTON BOOK CLUB

We are a small, friendly, group who meet once a month on a Wednesday afternoon at Goose Slade Farm Tea Shop at 2.00pm. We pay £1.00 per month for books, which we get from the library, and £2.00 into a kitty for drinks, and when funds allow we have a free month. A lively discussion takes place on the merits or otherwise of the current book, and we mark them out of ten on content and enjoyment.

Recent Reads: Moon Tiger by Penelope Lively; The Music Shop by Rachel Joyce; The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion.

If you would like to know more, please contact either Jennie Warman on jennifer.warman@btinternet.com tel 421638, or Penny Marpole on penny.marpole@btinternet.com

EAST COKER VILLAGE QUIZ 2018

The Thirteenth Annual Village Quiz was held in East Coker Village Hall on 10 March. Twenty teams of eight competed in an evening of questions which tested their knowledge on subjects ranging from Food and Drink to the names of well known Sidekicks. In the interval, an excellent fish-and-chip supper was enjoyed by all.

This year, The Poetry Group team was victorious, with The Early Train team as runners-up. The questionably prestigious wooden spoon prize, chocolate creme eggs, went to the Creme Egg Crew, who had clearly maintained their rigorous training regime to repeat their success of 2017!

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 £856. This will be donated in equal shares to the Special Care Baby Unit at Yeovil Hospital and to the East Coker Scouts. These are the two charities nominated by last year's winning team, The Early Train.

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 9 March 2019.

Martyn and Cherry Sowerbutts 863313



East Coker Poetry Group quiz team

TIME TO SHARE – Monday 2.30pm

Diary dates 2018

Monday 9 April	An interview with Sarah Rashley on her life and work in the village
Monday 23 April	Just England Quiz
Monday 14 May	Card Bingo
Monday 21 May	Afternoon Cream Tea Party
Monday 4 June	Quigong (Thai moves)
Monday 18 June	Up the Garden Path Talk – John Dando
Monday 2 July	Our Birthday Party

Don't forget our Wi-Fi Club every Tuesday in the Village Cafe at 10.00am. Come along for a coffee and a chat or advice on your iPad or tablet. I guarantee if you come once, you will come again!

See you soon. Sandra 862162

FILMFLIX – Films at East Coker Hall



The East Coker film season continues into May, after which there will be a break until September. Film Night is always the last Wednesday of each month. Please try to support the film nights, which are put on for the benefit of the community. A lot of effort is put in by a few people and we need to at least break even for each screening.

Wednesday 28 March – *Victoria and Abdul*

Based on Shrabani Basu's book *Victoria & Abdul – the True Story of the Queen's Closest Confidant*. This period piece is about Queen Victoria's later life. It's 1887, and the British Empire is celebrating Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Among the kings and princes in attendance is Abdul Karim, a young clerk who has travelled to the event from his famine-ravaged India to present the aging monarch with a ceremonial coin. As the Queen questions the constrictions of her long-held position, the two forge an unlikely and devoted alliance with a loyalty to one another that her household and inner circle all attempt to destroy. As the friendship deepens, the Queen begins to see a changing world through new eyes and joyfully reclaims her humanity.

Starring Judi Dench, Ali Fazal, Tim Piggott-Smith, directed by Stephen Frears.

Wednesday 25 April – *Paddington 2*

From the producer David Heyman: (Harry Potter, Gravity, Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them). *PADDINGTON 2* finds Paddington happily settled with the Brown family in Windsor Gardens, where he has become a popular member of the community, spreading joy and marmalade wherever he goes. While searching for the perfect present for his beloved Aunt Lucy's 100th birthday, Paddington spots a unique pop-up book in Mr. Gruber's antique shop, and embarks upon a series of odd jobs to buy it. But when the book is stolen, it's up to Paddington and the Browns to unmask the thief. **Entry for children, accompanied by an adult**, will be £1.

Cast: Ben Whishaw, Brendan Gleeson, Hugh Bonneville, Hugh Grant, Jim Broadbent, Julie Walters, Madeleine Harris, Peter Capaldi, Sally Hawkins, Samuel Joslin. Director Paul King.

Wednesday 30 May – *The Greatest Showman*

This film celebrates the birth of show business, and tells of a visionary who rose from nothing to create a spectacle that became a worldwide sensation. When P.T. Barnum loses his job after the company's bankruptcy, he sets out to finally give his family the life he promised them by reinventing himself as 'The Greatest Showman'. He starts putting together a circus, trying to create a show like nobody's ever seen before. But, for a unique show, he'll need unique performers unafraid to stand out – after all, no-one ever made a difference by being like everyone else.

Starring Hugh Jackman, Zac Efron, Michelle Williams and Zendaya – a soaring musical with songs by the Academy Award-winning songwriters behind 'La La Land'.

Director: Michael Gracey

Showings commence at 7.30pm. Doors open 7.00pm. Entry £6 per person.

For further details, contact 01935 863002 or 01935 862447



EAST COKER HALL CHARITABLE TRUST – NOTICE OF AGM TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 14 MAY 2018

The Annual General Meeting of the Trust will be held on Monday 14 May 2018 in the Dampier Room of East Coker Hall, Halves Lane, commencing at 7.30pm.

Any group that has a regular booking for the hall is invited to have representation on the Committee. Applications for representation should be in writing to the Secretary, Mrs H Styles, 21 Mill Close, East Coker, BA22 9LF, and should be submitted at least two weeks before the meeting. Representatives elected to the Committee of the Trust will be expected to act in the best interests of the Trust, and should be prepared to be proactive and active committee members.

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

Information on the Hall and details of how to hire it are available on the Hall website, <http://eastcokervillagehall.co.uk>

EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

Another three months have passed – so quickly – and now we are into official 'spring', although we might not have thought this would ever arrive, given the freezing temperatures and layers of snow. The year started with Neil Lovesey, when we learnt that there are in fact 12 seasons in the gardening year – not four as we had previously thought. As usual, Neil gave an interesting, illustrated, informative talk, entitled *Twelve Months of Colour*, which gave members ideas on how to achieve colour all year round.

In February, we discovered how plants can act as companions to each other, as well as to the gardener. It seems likely that, within the next five years, chemical treatments currently available to the gardener will disappear, so companion planting is certainly something to consider. Already many of us plant marigolds and basil with our tomatoes and know this works well. It could be worthwhile trying out some of the other planting combinations: coriander against aphids, horseradish amongst the potatoes. Use Allelopaths (nature's weedkillers): over-sow the couch-grass with turnip or swede, sow calendula to get rid of the mare's tail. Avoid monoculture by diversifying the plantings in our gardens and vegetable plots. Use garlic as a natural fungicide. Use plants to attract predators and as lures to attract 'pests', and to provide support and shade.

In March, Pauline and David Wright gave an illustrated talk on their garden, '*Lift the Latch*', which followed their efforts over 33 years in creating a beautiful, all year round garden at Forton, near Chard – a fairly local garden which is well worth a visit.

The programme for the next few months:

12 April	<i>Hestercombe – Restoration of the Edwardian and Victorian Gardens</i> The Head Gardener, Claire Greenslade, will talk on these very special gardens at Taunton, which cover three centuries of garden history.
3 May	<i>Crevice Gardening</i> - Paul Cumbleton
14 June	<i>Birds of Prey Display</i> - Falconry UK
9 August	<i>Trug making by a miserable Trugger – I think that's what the wife called me</i> - Carl Sadler

Day trips planned for 2018 are:

Wednesday 23 May	Hestercombe Gardens, Taunton (waitlisted)
Wednesday 25 July	Longstock Park Nursery, Stockbridge, followed by Heale Gardens, Salisbury

Non-members are welcome to join the day trips – please contact Stan Shayler for details.

The small committee does an excellent job of planning the programme, making every effort to ensure that the majority of members are able to benefit from most of the talks, events and trips.

Meetings, day 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 £15, with subs of £1 per meeting. Visitors £3. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, commencing at 7.30pm in East Coker Hall, Halves Lane.

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

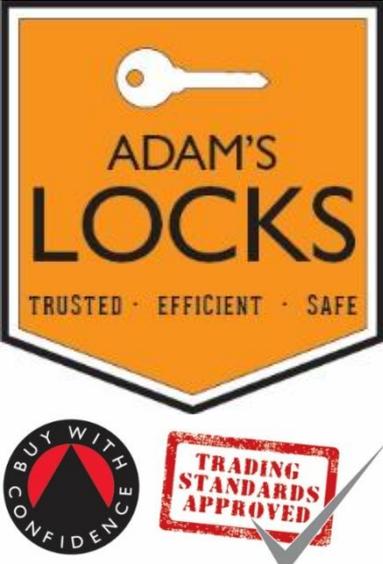
EAST COKER BOWLS CLUB

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

We are a friendly club and are looking for 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?

For more information, check out our website www.eastcokershortmatbowlsclub.btck.co.uk or telephone our Club Captain, George Dudden on 01935 864222.

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THE EAST COKER BULK OIL PURCHASE SCHEME – JULY 2018

We topped up in a big way in January – 46,700 litres in 56 drops. Darch did us a very good deal at 42.70 ppl +VAT. How did we know about the Beast from the East? Hasn't the way it snowed and then thawed so completely and quickly both times been extraordinary. My long-suffering dog Scruffy thought the first batch was the wrong sort of snow because each paw broke through the frozen crust and she sank up to her middle – jolly hard work. Good news was she turned round and took herself home pretty quickly. It was the equinox today, so Spring has sprung and I hope you've got enough oil left to take you through to the fill-up in July/August. The clocks spring forward next weekend and then summer will have started. I only acknowledge two seasons; Summer and Winter, Light and Dark.

Before you ask, I just do the donkey-work; collating the requirements, ringing round the suppliers and placing the order and 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 01935 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 in January and July.

Paul Edwards

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH

I'm making a little plea in this edition of the East Coker Newsletter for new members; please consider joining us by contacting our Membership Secretary Dave Giles 433644, or on-line: www.britishlegion.org.uk or better still meet up with like-minded others at our Cheese & Wine Evening in East Coker Hall at 7.30pm on Friday 20 April.

Here is a statistic, which is not good reading: about 11% of the current prison population are ex-service personnel, and many are suffering from a mental illness.

Some of you will have already read about Andy who served in the RAF for 16 years as an Aviation Engineer. He continued his career with the MoD, but fell into alcohol addiction, lost his job, his family, even his home and ended up on the streets. After numerous visits to court Andy was given a custodial sentence which he hoped would break his cycle of drinking. Whilst in prison Andy made his first contact with the RBL.

After his release, the Legion helped him with one month's rent and a deposit so he had somewhere to live, enabling him to start a new life. Andy said "When I was at my lowest ebb, the Legion was like a circle of light around me. I gained my self-respect and dignity". He has now completed a degree and a Postgraduate Certificate in Education at Cardiff University. He also teaches English to International Students throughout the summer.

There is a Winston Churchill quote that sums it up:

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give"

By becoming a member, you will be helping many other veterans and their dependants old and young. Please help us to help them.

This year the country is **commemorating the end of WW1**. Events are being held nationally and locally between 8 August and 7 November. Please see local press, magazines and village notice boards for information.

We are hoping to put up displays in our churches and at our coffee mornings.

If you have any WW1 memorabilia such as photos, poems, clothing, tools etc. which you are willing to loan for display, please contact: Myself 862782, Bill Petheram 863551, Marilyn Smith 863944, Clifford Humphreys 862242, Wendy Weston 862472, Caroline Field 863271.

Dates for diaries 2018

- Friday 20 April, 7.30pm – Cheese & Wine Evening East Coker Hall. Poppy Appeal Awards will take place.
- Friday 27 July, 10.00am – 12.00pm – Coffee Morning, Forester's Arms, Holywell.
- Saturday 7 October, 10am – Noon - Coffee Morning, 2018 Poppy Appeal, West Coker Memorial Hall.

Many thanks for your continued support.

David Holland, Chairman d.holland632@btinternet.com Secretary, Marilyn Smith 863944

EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

Underground Poetry – Tuesday, 24 April 2018, 7:30pm

Underground Poetry in all senses of the word! Mind the gap – and expect the unexpected. Caroline Mornement has put together this poetic evening.

Shakespeare – Your chance to read from any of the Bard's poetry, or prose from the plays.

Tuesday, 29 May 2018 – 7:30pm

Heather Murphy is coordinating this evening and hopes many people will read. She asks that if you are happy to read, please send her in advance details of a few pieces you could read, so that she assembles a reading list without duplication. But no long speeches please!

Can you email your choices to her by Tuesday 15 May at the latest, heather.murphy159@gmail.com

Our meetings are held at the Helyar Arms, East Coker, and normally start at 7.30pm on the last Tuesday of the month.

For more information about the East Coker Poetry Group, contact David Cloke, Group Co-ordinator, 862623 email info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk.

Please check our website for the most up to date details of any meeting www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk

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EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

East Coker Wine Circle holds meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 8.00pm at East Coker Hall.

Programme details

Wednesday 2 May	School in a Bag
Wednesday 6 June	Wine Tasting by Furleigh English Wines, and AGM
Saturday 22 July	BBQ Summer Event (12.30pm)
Wednesday 1 August	Behind the scenes of the National Trust

Looking forward to seeing you all, Sarah Rashley

EAST COKER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We are busy arranging this year's programme. Our first speaker in April will be Paul Mears, Chief Executive of Yeovil Hospital, no doubt telling how they managed to cope during the winter season and explaining how they have consistently had good revues.

The Watercress Company from Dorchester is scheduled for May.

As our Institute was founded a hundred years ago, we have a celebration dinner planned for June when we shall have the well known speaker, Francis Burroughes, as the after dinner entertainment. In July, two of Somerset's WI advisers are booked to relate their experience when they took part in the BBC's Bargain Hunt.

Our last Whist Drive before the summer break will be held on Thursday 19 April at 7.30pm in the Dampier Room, East Coker Hall.

The successful Fun and Games continues once a month, when anyone over 50 years is invited to the East Coker Hall to enjoy exercise in a fun way.

For any further information, please contact secretary Ruby Rollo tel 475010

Diary dates

Monday 16 April	Fun and Games 2.00pm	East Coker Hall,
Thursday 26 April	Talk about Yeovil Hospital 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Monday 21 May	Fun and Games 2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 31 May	The Watercress Company 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Monday 11 June	Fun and Games 2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 28 June	Celebration Meal 7.00pm	East Coker Hall



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EAST COKER MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

2018 has started well with the January event raising £237 for Help for Heroes, and the February event raising £350 for the RNLI. There is no event in March because Good Friday falls on the last Friday of the month this year.

The forthcoming events will be in aid of

- Apollo Swimming Club for Physically Disabled, on 27 April
- Yeovil Rotary Club – Building a School in Nepal, on 25 May
- Motor Neurone Disease, on 29 June

If you know anyone who would like to hold a coffee morning for a charity on a future date, 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



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Young People

EAST COKER PRIMARY SCHOOL



We have had a very exciting spring term which was added to thanks to the 'Beast from the East', which resulted in closing the school for several days. Despite this, our children have taken part in a lot of events this term.

Our Year 3 pupils have been receiving free flute lessons for the term to inspire the children in taking up a musical instrument in the future. We will hold our Annual Spring Concert next term to celebrate our talented musicians as they get the opportunity to perform to their parents. Our school choir will be performing, as well as individual musicians. We will also be holding a special music day with Samba Drumming next term just for our infant pupils.

Due to the significant increases in sporting clubs we have been able to offer this year, we have had a very busy and successful sporting term. Our Netball 'A' Team have qualified for the County finals, which will be held at Millfield School in April. In football, the girls' team have won three tournaments so far. We have also increased the number of teams and age ranges taking part in football under the care of our Sports Teacher, Jodie Dingle. We have finished in the top ten in every race in both our Year 5/6 and Year 3/4 cross country teams. Two of our pupils won every race they entered!

Our children have also attended a gifted and talented sports event at Bucklers Mead, and they had a great day competing in wheelchair basketball, tag rugby, tri golf and blind football! Some of our children were invited to the MOTIV8 festival which used real life versions of video games to engage the children in physical activities.

Other events which have taken place this term have included a local walk for the Owls and Robins classes, while the Goldfinches and Magpies class have visited 'At Bristol' to learn about animation for their topic 'Movie Mania'. They are currently green screening as we speak. In addition to this, all the infant classes have had a special day using computing and Lego as part of their 'Structures' topic,

We have also had a 'Play in a Day' for our older children, along with celebrating World Book Day and Sport's Relief.

We ended this term with two special events, our house day and Easter Egg Hunt. Well done to Pendomer house. They achieved over 2,000 house points this term and got to wear non-school uniform on our last day.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the school this term. You can see more of the things we get up to by visiting our website at www.eastcokerschool.co.uk

I hope you all have a lovely Easter.

Jane Hesketh-Williams Head Teacher

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

The Playgroup children have had a busy Spring Term. They have investigated food and nutrition in the first half-term, and explored natural materials in the second half-term. The children enjoyed raising funds with a sponsored Easter obstacle course and a coffee morning for parents and carers during the last week of term.

The Playgroup is a charity, and all fundraising is essential in supporting the Playgroup. Fundraising will enable the Playgroup to maintain and replace the resources that support the children's learning and development. Our next fundraiser is on 16 June 2018:

Annual Playgroup Summer Fair
Saturday 16 June 2018 from 12.30pm to 3.30pm,
at the Pavilion, Long Furlong Lane, East Coker.

There will be a variety of 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 years. We accept 2 year old funding, 15 hour Universal Early Years Entitlement, Extended Entitlement 30 hour free childcare, Tax Free Childcare and Childcare Vouchers.

For more information on support with childcare costs, please visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk the Childcare Choices website which makes it easy to find out what's on offer.

We are open during term time at the following session times:

- Monday 9.00-12.00 - 1.00-3.00
- Tuesday 9.00-12.00 - 1.00-3.00
- Wednesday 9.00-12.00 - 1.00-3.00
- Thursday 9.00-12.00 - 1.00-3.00
- Friday 9.00-12.00 - 1.00-3.00

Children staying for lunch need to bring a packed lunch. Please enquire about extended opening hours 8.00am - 4.00pm.

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. East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup is a smaller group, and this can be a great benefit to the younger children. East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup also runs an integrated Toddler Session on Thursday mornings from 9.30am to 11.00am for £1 per family.

To find out more information, please visit www.eastchinnockunder5spreschool.co.uk

**East Chinnock Under Fives Preschool are holding a
Fun Dog Show and Fayre on Monday 28 May 2018 from 11.00am to 3.00pm
at The Recreation Ground, Weston Street, East Chinnock.
As well as the dog show there will be refreshments, cake stall, BBQ,
face-painting, raffle and a variety of stalls.
Fun for all the family! Charity no: 1026644**

Information about both playgroups can be found on their web sites and/or by contacting Kay Strobe on 07798 812540.

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

The recent snow falls have affected a number of events, in particular the scout backwoods/survival camp and the World Jamboree selection weekend where both were shortened to ensure everyone got home safely. The previous snow had made the District Day Hike, starting and finishing at East Coker, an interesting challenge of snow drifts and mud. Our team completed the distance very well with no problems, whereas a couple of teams had to be picked up.

During the backwoods event, the scouts set up their own bivouacs using trees, rope and groundsheets. They were shown how to prepare mackerel, pigeon and rabbit before cooking and eating a delicious rabbit stew.

Three of our explorers and one scout attended the World Scout Jamboree selection at Huish Woods campsite near Taunton. Over 50 were competing for 27 places in the Somerset contingent. They undertook a series of team challenges – putting up a patrol tent, transporting water using lengths of guttering and pulling a car out of a ditch – to see how they worked within a team and established friendships with new people. They also cooked pancakes at lunchtime and pasta and vegetables for tea. **Bethan, Ruby and Clare have all been selected to attend the Jamboree and are starting to raise £3,450 each. Please look out for events that we will be organising and support them in any way you can.**

We successfully won £1,000 from the Aviva Community Fund, and have already used it to install eight new wall heaters. The difference to the temperature in the hut is astounding. We are now looking towards the next elements of our refurbishment - the new entrance and associated fire escapes. As well as looking after the hut, we must also look after our equipment. We emptied our stores during a weekend to catalogue everything we hold. This has been invaluable to ensure we insure ourselves for the correct amount and also highlighted the need to replace some tents and equipment.

The Beavers have been cooking; designing and making for their Builder Activity badge; lighting candles for their Skills Challenge badge; and will have a visit from the Police Community Support Officer.

The Cubs have been working through their World Challenge badge, Air activities (numerous paper planes flying around the hut) as well as their Community Impact badge with a session on refugees.

The Scouts have been working towards their Photographer Badge - taking, assessing and editing pictures. Cooking hike rations on Trangias (portable gas cookers) and discussing the equipment needed for a hike; all preparation towards the Fox Trophy hiking competition.

All sections are looking ahead to next term when all will be camping and spending much more time outside. Once again, after a break of many years, we will be parading in Yeovil for St George's Day on Sunday 22 April.

The Chief Scout has awarded both David Webber and Kevin Woodcock the Award for Merit in recognition of outstanding service to Scouting. These awards reflect the considerable time and service David and Kevin have given to East Coker Scout Group.

Waste Paper Collection

The collection point is outside the school, opposite the Village Café, 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 28 April

Saturday 26 May

Saturday 30 June

David Webber, Group Scout Leader

www.eastcoker.com

ALL STARS FOR 5-8 YEAR OLDS

Hardington and West Coker Cricket Club are proud to be holding ALL STARS, a new youth training course aimed at introducing new young people to have a try at cricket.

The course is available to children aged 5-8yrs.

Sessions will run on Wednesday evenings from 5.00 – 6.00pm, with our first session on **Wednesday 16 May** and the final session on **Wednesday 4 July**.

We will also have an open '**bring a friend and try it**' session on **Saturday 5 May** where children who are thinking of enrolling or who have enrolled can bring a friend along and see what All Stars is all about.

When you register for the 8 weeks of coaching, there is a £40 fee. Within this cost, your child receives the following: 8 weeks of 1 hour coaching sessions; cricket goodies; including a backpack, water bottle, T-shirt, bat and ball, which they will bring along to each session and keep at the end of the course.

We will have the club house open where parents and siblings are able to wait and watch the session, and we will have the bar open and tea and coffee available to purchase, and a small tuck shop.

As a club, we pride ourselves on being family friendly and encourage everyone to enjoy the club's atmosphere. We hope the 5-8 year olds in East Coker will join us.

For more information please go to:

<https://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/Course/b01650b3-f477-4a81-8643-83cca0bc6ae8>

or email sophie.witcher@gmail.com

The Churches

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

By the time you read this we will have celebrated Easter at St Michaels's. But if the Newsletter arrives in time – we will be celebrating on Easter Sunday at St Michael's with an 11.00am Sung Eucharist. If Easter has past, we do hope you had a happy and peaceful time.

Emma, our Children's worker will also have led another Messy Church session in the East Coker Hall on Saturday 31 March, again to celebrate Easter. Sadly, Emma is leaving her role as Children's Worker. We are very sorry to see her go; she has, in the short time she has been with us contributed a great deal to move our work with children and young families forward, for which we thank her and wish her well in the future. We will be advertising for a new Children and Young Families worker very soon. If you think you may be interested or know someone who would be, keep a look out for the advertisement or contact me, Judith.

As always, a reminder of our Service rota at St Michael's:

1 st Sunday	10.45am - Sunday School 11am - Sung Eucharist
2 nd Sunday	8am – Holy Communion 11am – Morning Prayer
3 rd Sunday	10am – Café Church 6pm – Evensong
4 th Sunday	11am- Sung Eucharist

We would love to see you at any of our services. Our Café Church on the third Sunday of each month is a very informal get-together led by Jacqueline Clough. There are always plenty of activities for children to join in with.

St Michael's will be holding its Annual Meeting on Wednesday 18 April at 7.30pm in the Dampier Room, East Coker Hall. This meeting is open to everyone on the church electoral roll.

As we move into spring and summer, we look forward to celebrating several weddings at St Michael's, always a very happy occasion in the church.

Contact details:

Rev. Colin Simpson – rector42@icloud.com and tel 862429

Judith Shaw (Churchwarden) – judith.foxholes@gmail.com and tel 863218

www.eastcoker.com

Also there will be:

<p style="text-align: center;">A Celebration of Marriage on Saturday 2 June from 2.00pm – 5.00pm at St Michael's Church</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A free display of Wedding dresses and Christening robes belonging to local friends</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Music Floral arrangements Old Photographs</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Teas: donations to support the Benefice Messy Church Fund</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please contact Janet Wells (864198) or Jacqueline Clough (850256) if you have dresses you would like to lend. Tailors dummies also needed for display please</p>

EAST COKER CHAPEL, BURTON LANE, BA22 9LJ

We are a growing community of people from all walks of life who gather together regularly to worship God, learn how to better follow Him and to encourage each other in our lives as Christians. If you are looking for answers to some of life's big questions why not come along to one of our events and find out more.

Sunday Mornings at 11.00am, a time of worship, an inspirational and challenging short message, prayer and plenty of tea and biscuits. Held at the Chapel, Burton Lane **and then at the East Coker Hall from June onwards.**

Cafe church is church with breakfast! Held on the first Sunday of the month at East Coker Hall, 11.00am.

Prayer Gathering is held at the chapel on the last Sunday of the month at 5.00pm. A very informal get-together, usually over a cup of tea, discussing points for prayer before breaking off into smaller groups to pray.

Worship Night is usually held on the second and third Sundays of the month at the Chapel or Goose Slade Farm Tea Shop, 6.00pm. Please keep an eye on the what's-on sheet for more information.

Home Groups – We currently have two home groups meeting fortnightly on Tuesdays 8.00pm at various venues.

Tea break is held at the chapel on the first Thursday of the month and is a drop-in event, a place to take a break and have a chat over a cup of tea, 2.00pm – 4.30pm.

Little Wheelers is a baby and toddler Group at the East Coker Hall held during term time from 10.30am - 12.00pm. Parents/Guardians remain responsible for their children throughout the session.

For any further details of events or general enquiries, please email ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk or take a look at our website www.eastcokerchapel.com You can also follow us on Facebook.

Village News

PLANT & CAKE SALE

Saturday May 26 from 10.00am – 12.00pm at Walnut Cottage, Coker Marsh, East Coker

A large choice of plants, delicious homemade cakes, Fair Trade stall, tea and coffee and a raffle. Any offers of goods for the cake stall or raffle prizes would be most welcome.

Parking is on the road outside the cottage and there will be people to help carry the plants etc.

Contact Kate Best 07796991592. All proceeds from the cake stall, raffle and refreshments will go to St. Margaret's Hospice.

ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

We will be delivering our popular Cream Teas to businesses and homes in the Yeovil area this year on Thursday 21 June. If you would like to receive one of these, please contact one of the committee or myself on 01935 478409 or email janedonnelly81@outlook.com. The boxes are £6 each and contain 2 scones, 2 pots of jam, clotted cream, strawberries and a tea bag delivered to your door – why not get together with your neighbours and have a garden party!! Help us to raise much-needed funds and join us in our fight to help little lives and help sick and disabled babies and children.

A promotional poster for Coker Fest 2018. The background is a golden field of wheat under a bright, hazy sky. The text is arranged in a central column with side text. At the top, it says 'Headline Act: The Team with Angelo Starr!'. Below that, the date '7th July 2018' and time '12pm - 12am' are written in red. In the center is a logo for 'Coker Fest 2018' with 'Coker Fest' in red script and '2018' in large green and yellow numbers. To the left of the logo, it says 'More fantastic bands than ever including Scoot and Skimmity Hitchers'. To the right, it says 'Bigger Bar! 2 Stages! More bands! Longer time! More Food!'. At the bottom, it says 'Visit www.cokerfest.co.uk or call 01935 864342 for tickets'.

COKERFEST

Saturday 7 July 2018 at Longlands, East Coker, BA22 9HN

Midday to Midnight - bigger and better than before - more bands, bigger bar, etc.

Headline act - The Team with Angelo Starr, supported by Scoot and Skimmity Hitchers, as well as many others.

Tickets are currently £20, but price will be rising before the event.

Please visit www.cokerfest.co.uk or call 01935 864342 to buy tickets and get more information.

EAST COKER VILLAGE CAFÉ

Dear All

Well, the little café is enjoying its second year and, touch wood, is growing beautifully.

The little café has been host to wedding anniversaries, birthday parties, christenings and wakes already this year. So thank you so much for thinking of us.

We are looking forward to the spring weather, where you will find us barbequing on a Saturday, as well as still offering our full menu (please look out for dates on our Facebook page).

Sunday lunch has been a great success, so thank you so much for all your support; we do recommend that you book as we do fill up very quickly for Sunday lunch (served between 12.00 and 2.30pm).

We hope to recommence our Friday nights later in the spring.

Up and coming events - we have another Clairvoyant evening on Thursday 26 April, this will be the third one we have held and they have been very well supported, so thank you again.

We have just started high teas for the year and they have also taken off well so far. We are so looking forward to the spring and summer and we would love you to be a part of it with us.

Thank you once again.

Love Kiet and all the lovely village café staff (hopefully see you soon, take care x)

Please phone for more information regarding any of the above, 01935 863821

Ladies Friday 15th June
2 to 6pm
AFTERNOON TEA
with Prosecco, Stalls and Fashion Show

Tickets available from 'Victoria' at St Margaret's Hospice on 01935 709157
or from Aileen on 01935 863755

Tickets £25 in aid of **St. Margaret's**
St Margaret's Hospice Registered Charity England and Wales No. 1014851 - Scotland 5604112 **HOSPICE**

by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Robert Mead
Townsend Villa, East Coker, BA22 9JZ

Prosecco, Gin and Cocktail Bar
Find us on Facebook 'Ladies Charity Afternoon Tea'



**Independent Residential
& Commercial Estate
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www.laceysyeovil.co.uk
Director: David MacLauchlan BSc (Hons) MRICS

EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

Defibrillator In memory of Councillor James (Jimmy) New, the Parish Council will be purchasing an external defibrillator, which will be located at the Pavilion, Long Furlong Lane. Details regarding training will follow shortly via the Parishioner email list from the Clerk and social media pages.

The Chapel A request for quotations for ceiling repairs has been sent to a number of contractors, and it is hoped that the works will start in the spring with completion by October.

Neighbourhood Plan The plan has now been submitted to South Somerset District Council (SSDC) for them to arrange another 6-week consultation exercise, known as Regulation 16 consultation, which will be handled by the SSDC. This will be advertised by them, but we will be pressing for this to be progressed as soon as possible.

Following this, SSDC will arrange for the Plan to be formally Examined by an independent examiner, who will consider all the comments made on the Plan and may well recommend modifications. After this, the Plan can progress to the Referendum and hopefully, final approval.

Pavilion Recreation Grounds After improvements to the playing fields and the installation of semi-permanent goals, all age groups for East Coker Cockerels Football Club are now accommodated at the Pavilion. The Parish Council are also looking into refurbishing and improving the Pavilion, more details to follow. The fencing around the children's play area will be repaired as soon as the weather permits.

If you see the **Ranger**, Karen, working in and around the Parish, a cuppa would be most welcome. If you see anything that needs her attention, please contact Chairman B Sugg, 863435 (no calls after 6pm please).

Annual Parishioner Meeting – Thursday 19 April – 7.00pm –East Coker Hall. An opportunity to meet your Parish Council and discuss any issues you have. The meeting will start with the formal process of introductions and agenda items at 7.00pm, followed by refreshments and an informal questions and answer session.

East Coker Photography Competition The calendars have proved a great success and it is hoped to hold another competition later in the year for the 2019 calendar. Details to follow.

Highways - Pot Holes Please report any pot holes to the Clerk. SSDC give a six week lead time for repair. If possible, could you please include a photo of the pothole and its location. Thank you.

Dog Waste Bins The waste in these bins goes to Landfill, along with other household rubbish, and is not recycled.

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

We have an ongoing issue in the Parish with **'fly tipping'**. If you see any rubbish that has been dumped illegally, please contact the Clerk.

The Parish Council hold a **monthly meeting**, every 2nd Wednesday, 7.00pm at the Pavilion. It is a public meeting to discuss planning and other issues affecting the Parish. You are all welcome to attend. If you would like to speak at the meeting, please contact the Clerk.

Email circulation list. If you would like to be kept up-to-date with regular news and events around the Parish, please email the Clerk. Your email address will not be made public or used by any other third party.

Councillors' contact details are on our website, www.eastcokerparish.com.

The Parish Clerk, Gillian Macpherson, can be reached on 01935 864354 (Tuesday and Thursday, 10.00am – 3.00pm), email clerk@eastcokerparish.com.

LIBRARY

Below are the details of mobile library stops in East Coker at The Helyar Arms on a Tuesday, every four weeks, from 12.40pm – 12.55pm.

1 May

29 May

26 June

Rake's Progress



A garden tidying and maintenance service.

No job too small! Friendly and hardworking local service, based in East Coker.

Call Neil on 07581 538713 for a free, no obligation quote at a competitive price.

BONFIRES

It will soon be sunny days and warm nights, and gardeners will be cutting and clipping their shrubs and hedges, so please think to plan really well before having a bonfire. Please inform neighbours, and check that hedgehogs have not taken up residence. Think of the direction of the wind, and don't allow damp material to smoulder. Late in the afternoon allows people to enjoy sitting in the sun, washing to be dried, and gardening to be done without having to retreat indoors from bonfire smoke and falling ash. Please be neighbourhood-friendly.

REFUSE COLLECTIONS – May Bank Holidays 2018

The Wednesday recycling collection (green bins etc) will be one day later on Thursday 5 April.

HELP IN THE SNOW

Can I, on behalf of all those who are getting past their sell-by date or frail, thank the more able members of the village during the snow. I especially greatly appreciated the calls to check I had enough food and was ok, and for the people who cleared a path from my front door to the road. It brought back memories of 1973 when I went round on my skis, when the village was cut off for 3 days, checking others. Thank you all.

Monica Whipp

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **July 2018**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or email l.lindsay@eastcoker.com, by **Wednesday, 20 June 2018 or before if possible**.

***** SEE OVERLEAF FOR QUARTERLY VILLAGE DIARY**

Tues 3 Apr	Library	12.40pm-12.55pm	The Helyar Arms
Wed 4 Apr	Wine Circle – Music & Flower Quiz	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 9 Apr	Time To Share – Sarah Rashley Interview	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 12 Apr	Gardening Club – Hestercombe Gardens	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 16 Apr	W.I. – Fun & Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 18 Apr	St Michael's Church – AGM	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 19 Apr	W.I. – Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 19 Apr	Parish Council – Parishioners Meeting	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 20 Apr	RBL – Cheese & Wine	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 23 Apr	Time To Share – Just England Quiz	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 24 Apr	Poetry Group – Underground Poetry	7.30pm	The Helyar Arms
Wed 25 Apr	Filmflix – Paddington 2	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 26 Apr	W.I. – Yeovil Hospital Talk	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 27 Apr	Coffee Morning – Apollo Swimming	10.00am - 12.00pm	The Forester's
Sat 28 Apr	Scouts Newspaper Collection	8.30am -10.30am	Near the school
Tues 1 May	Library	12.40pm-12.55pm	The Helyar Arms
Wed 2 May	Wine Circle – School in a Bag	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 3 May	Gardening Club – Crevice Gardening	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 14 May	Time To Share – Card Bingo	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 14 May	EC Hall Charitable Trust - AGM	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 16 May	East Coker Society – AGM	6.30pm	Helyar Arms
Mon 21 May	W.I. – Fun & Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 25 May	Coffee Morning – Yeovil Rotary Club - School in Nepal	10.00am - 12.00pm	The Forester's
Sat 26 May	Plant & Cake Sale – St Margaret's Hospice	10.00am - 12.00pm	Walnut Cottage, Coker Marsh
Sat 26 May	Scouts Newspaper Collection	8.30am -10.30am	Near the school
Tues 29 May	Library	12.40pm-12.55pm	The Helyar Arms
Wed 30 May	Filmflix – The Greatest Showman	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 31 May	W.I. – Dorchester Watercress Company	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 2 June	A Celebration of Marriage	2.00pm – 5.00pm	St Michael's Church
Mon 4 June	Time To Share - Quigong	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 4 June	The Players – Wild West Theme	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 6 June	Wine Circle – Wine Tasting & AGM	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 11 June	W.I. – fun & Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thur 14 June	Gardening Club – Birds of Prey Display	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 16 Jun	The Playgroups – Summer Fair	12.30pm-3.30pm	The Pavilion
Mon 18 June	Time To Share – Talk John Dando	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 20 June	Copy for July Newsletter		
Thur 21 June	Action Medical Research – Cream Teas		
Tues 26 June	Library	12.40pm-12.55pm	The Helyar Arms
Thur 28 June	W.I. – Celebration Meal	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 29 June	Coffee Morning – Motor Neurone Disease	10.00am - 12.00pm	The Forester's
Sat 30 June	Scouts Newspaper Collection	8.30am – 10.30am	Near the school
Mon 2 July	The Players – Script Read Through	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 2 July	Time To Share – Our Birthday Party	2.30pm	East Coker Hall