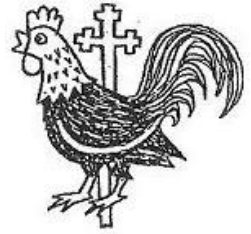


# East Coker Society Newsletter



April 2020

Free Issue No 178

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## East Coker Society News

### NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION

Unfortunately, coronavirus prevents us from producing and delivering hard copies of our quarterly Newsletter, but we will continue to send it to everyone who subscribes by email, as well as publishing it on our website [www.eastcoker.com](http://www.eastcoker.com). If you know of anyone in East Coker Parish who would like to be added to our email list, please tell them to contact Lesley Lindsay at [l.lindsay@eastcoker.com](mailto:l.lindsay@eastcoker.com), providing email and postal address.

We are also working with the Parish Council to keep you up to date with more regular local news in their "Coker and Corona" Bulletins. They have now released 3 issues, which Lesley has forwarded to you. You can also access information and updates on the Parish Council website [www.eastcokerparish.com](http://www.eastcokerparish.com). We apologise if you receive duplicate emails. Both East Coker Society and the Parish Council maintain strict procedures for not sharing your email addresses.

### LOCAL IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS

The impact of coronavirus on all our lives is now being felt at unparalleled levels. Do not underestimate the severity of this pandemic and PLEASE follow Government guidelines.

East Coker is not immune from the dangers. We must all ensure the safety of everyone in our community and further afield. The NHS and essential services are under incredible strain. They deserve our unstinting support, which is best given by following the rules and keeping safe.

Most of our village venues are closed until further notice. This includes our School, Churches, Hall, Pavilion, Play Areas, Pubs, Cafés and many other businesses. Local food shops are still open, and some outlets are providing takeaway services. Our Clubs and organisations have cancelled activities and will communicate with their members directly and via the Newsletters.

As well as your friends and families, please keep in touch with your neighbours and provide help where safe and practical, particularly to those who live alone or are vulnerable.

### FEBRUARY EXHIBITION

We were so fortunate that our Exhibition of Village Photos and Memorabilia was able to take place. Despite the flooding of all but one access route to the East Coker Hall, we received about 300 visitors, including a few from as far afield as Australia and the USA! 'Thank you' to all of you who contributed and/or attended.

### WINTER FAYRE – 24 OCTOBER 2 00PM TO 4 00PM

We still plan to go ahead with the Winter Fayre if conditions permit. If you would like to register your interest for a table, please contact Sarah Owen, tel 01935 862218.

### MIKE SPERRING

We will all miss our East Coker Society Committee Member, Mike Sperring who died recently. He was on our Committee for nearly 20 years, supporting all our events with his typical cheerfulness and enthusiasm. Jane has been most grateful for your letters, cards and phone calls and wishes to pass on her thanks to you all for your kindness and support. A date will be set for a Thanksgiving Service as soon as restrictions are lifted.

Sarah Owen

## **DON'T FORGET TO CLAP FOR THE NHS!!!**

Please remember to stand at your doorway and applaud the NHS workers and carers every Thursday night at 8.00pm until the pandemic ends. Thank you.

## **Village Clubs and Organisations**

### **EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE**

Hello from the Wine Circle! We send very best wishes to everyone confined to barracks at the present time. All we can hope is your cellars are stocked to enjoy the alcohol you look at, sniff and roll around your pallet. Should you happen to spill any on your hands that's just a bonus, as you can't buy it in gel form! Our programme has been suspended of course, and we'll let members know of a restart date via 'Tipple Talk'.

If you are not a member but want details, give me a call 862060. The events might not be as per the membership card when we resume, but we shall celebrate!

Enjoy your garden and patio tipples, walks in the lanes and conversation with your neighbours over the garden fence.

Best wishes, Anne Hartley Chairman

### **TIME TO SHARE**

We are very sad to announce that the Time to Share Club is postponed for the time being.

As soon as there is any change, we will review the situation and let you all know.

We hope that our members will keep well and safe during this difficult time, and that contact will remain steady to avoid too many lonely folk.

If you can help out, please contact us.

Sandra Snelling 862162          Anne Hartley 862060

### **EAST COKER PLAYERS**

Our February Pantomime DVD meeting was cancelled due to storm Ciara, which caused a power failure to the Hall.

We did manage to present our charity cheques to Clic Sargent (£100) and The Hub (£100) from the Pantomime proceeds. Photographs were taken and appeared in the Western Gazette.

We also managed to get around the village flooding to put on a display at the Village on View day.

During the afternoon, John Langdon and the East Coker Memorial Jug band played a few songs.

In March, we watched the DVD of our Pantomime, Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood.

Due to the Government coronavirus advice, we have decided to cancel the 6 April, 11 May and 1 June meetings.

Hopefully, we will be able to hold our Pantomime read-through and auditions. Look out for updates and posters.

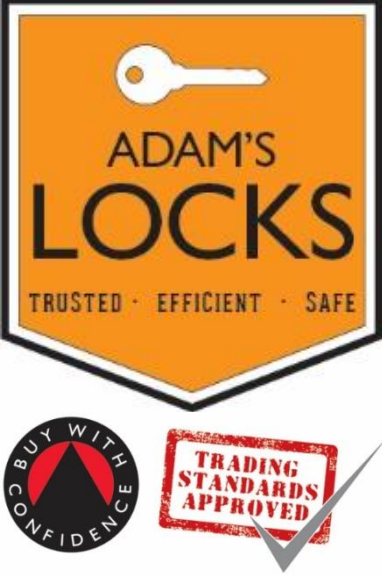
We hope you all keep well during these difficult times.

Anne Hartley 862060 and Hazel Giddings 429163

## FILMFLIXS – Films at East Coker Hall

Unsurprisingly, given the current circumstances, film evenings have been cancelled. As soon as we are able to resume showings, we will do so. We hope that you have enjoyed the films so far this season.

Helen Styles



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## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH

You may be aware that we were arranging a special Cheese and Wine Evening on 17 April at East Coker Hall.

Although preparations were progressing well, the organisers felt that in light of the coronavirus outbreak it would be better to postpone the event and hold it at a later date.

If you bought a ticket you may choose to retain it, or if you require a refund then please contact one of the organisers listed below:

Jill Holland 01935 862782  
Jude Petheram 01935 863531  
Marilyn Smith 01935 863944 or 07748 864518  
Wendy Weston

## EAST COKER WI

It's not good news when we have to inform you that all booked speakers at our meetings have had to be cancelled until at least July and maybe later; also, the fact that the lovely East Coker Hall has closed its doors to all activities until that time. This obviously includes our 'Fun and Games' sessions, as well as the whist evenings.

However, we must look forward and hope that our speaker at the end of July will be welcomed, accompanied by his dog, to tell us about the training of dogs for disabled people. In addition, an assortment of subjects is already booked for the rest of the year and beyond.

Now is the perfect time to do all those little jobs around the house that in our busy lives we did not have time to do. Hopefully, in my next newsletter issue we can give a happier report.

Take care, please follow all Government guidelines and enjoy any good weather we may have before then.

## EAST COKER HALL CHARITABLE TRUST

Due to coronavirus (COVID-19), the Hall is closed until further notice. All keycards have been disabled.

We are absolutely delighted that, following the plea in the last issue of the East Coker Society newsletter, a volunteer came forward and has now taken up the position of Treasurer. I cannot begin to express my thanks to John Morley, who has been working on getting the 2019 accounts together – a pretty big task, given that that I had only been keeping the everyday finances ‘ticking over’.

I should also like to take this opportunity to thank our Bookings Clerk and our cleaner, both of whom do an excellent job and without whom we would not be able to run the Hall. We receive numerous very positive comments about our Hall, many of which are as a result of the work and dedication of these two people.

### East Coker Hall website

The Hall has a website where you can find information about the Hall, availability and various events <http://eastcokervillagehall.co.uk>. We will do our very best to keep the website up to date, so do have a look at it.

Remember to heed Government advice, look after yourselves and keep an eye on your neighbours.

Helen Styles



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## EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

Having had a good start to the year, with a **Pruning Masterclass** by Neil Ross in January, followed in February by **The Bishop's Palace Gardens – past, present and future** (James Cross) and in March with **A Victorian Head Gardener** (Dr Francis Burroughes) sadly, due to the current critical situation, all meetings have been cancelled until such time as a more normal everyday life may resume – how we all look forward to that day. Francis Burroughes' talk was particularly interesting; some of the tools that lived in my grandparents' sheds were brought to life; at last, having wondered for years, I know what they were used for.

The trip to The Newt at Bruton has been cancelled, as has the Annual Holiday to the Isle of Wight.

So, for the time being, meetings are on hold. There is a page on the East Coker Hall website which I shall endeavour to keep up to date; if you have access to the web, please do go to <http://eastcokervillagehall.co.uk/> and look at the Gardening Club page. We intend to continue to produce **The Propagator**, which Linda will send out via email to as many members as she can. If you don't have access to email, please let us know and we will try to get a hard copy to you.

We look forward to resuming our meetings in due course, and to seeing, and welcoming, our members again. In the meantime, if you wish to speak to us, please do phone me 01935 862447 or Stan Shayler 01935 420291.

Take care, keep well and safe.

Helen

## **GARDENS GROUP**

I live in Helena Road and work for The Gardens Group, tel 01935 411000

We are currently closed to the public but working extremely hard behind closed doors taking telephone orders to keep our community positive and busy in their gardens at this really difficult and stressful time.

The orders are being processed and delivered FREE OF CHARGE to within 25miles of any of the three centres.

So, after reading your Coker Corona Issues just thought it would really useful for the local community to have this information hopefully to keep East Coker and surrounding gardens full of veg and summer colour!

Kind regards

Sarah Voizey

## **EAST COKER POETRY GROUP – MINI NEWSLETTER**

Many members have sent poems and other interesting items to me during the last week, and I thought I would circulate some. To keep the 'mini-newsletter' to a reasonable length, I have only included a couple of the many excellent poems sent in. I am keeping a 'folder' specially for all this material that I hope will be a record of these times.

First, **Staying Home** by Kitty O'Meara, sent in by Caroline Monument and Diane Summer.

*"And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and grew gardens full of fresh food, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.*

*"And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.*

*"And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed."*

*Kitty O'Meara*

Maya Pieris suggested the following interesting idea.

Last Thursday, a friend and I decided to 'meet for a drink' at 5.30pm whilst being in our own homes but having a drink at the same time, so sharing the same moment and a shared activity that now we cannot communally do for some time. It involves no tech skills beyond opening a bottle or putting the kettle on! And no-one has to be seen, heard or react to a person on a screen.

I let some other friends know who thought it a great opportunity to sit, think and be in the moment with friends at this very strange time. And to think about all those working to keep us all safe - I certainly know of people working on the various front lines - and also those around the world who have been living in war-torn hells for so much longer.

We wondered, therefore, if it might be a good idea to do this every Thursday at 5.30pm during this period of isolation - same time, same places!! We don't want it to be a saccharine experience or a straitjacket or to be in any way insensitive so if you can't, don't want to or you forget then it doesn't matter. And please feel free to ask more friends, family and neighbours as more is merrier!

## Compulsory Lock Down

Coffee cafetiere and  
Hot Jersey milk, buttered toast,  
Julie's ginger marmalade.  
Sitting in our new sun pent.  
Blackbird stalking by the door,  
hoping for discarded crumbs.

A bleak Spring? Tell Mother Nature.  
Birds nesting, magpies and crows  
brawling in next door's fir trees.  
Yellow clumps of daffodils  
stretching up to reach the sun  
like their little hearts would burst.

Poems waiting to be written,  
Jig saw puzzles piled high  
My new Hilary Mantel -  
the third in the trilogy.  
We are in enforced lock down  
in our own little Eden.

*by Heather Murphy*

## Do You Remember

Do you remember,  
do you remember the shooting  
of John Fitzgerald Kennedy  
in the winter of 1963?  
My dad in his boiler suit,  
hearing the news on a  
wooden long wave radio  
as he worked in our garage.

Do send any poems, info or items of interest to [g4bmo@yahoo.com](mailto:g4bmo@yahoo.com).

Best wishes to all in the East Coker Poetry Group and keep well.

David

## EAST COKER FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW – 15 August 2020

East Coker Flower Show committee have decided to carry on for the moment with planning this year's event. As it is on 15 August, we may be able to go ahead, but there will be no guarantees. It may be something to look forward to, so I am giving some tips. Please enjoy your gardens and take care.

### Tips for Entering the Show

Try to get the vegetables all the same size and colour if possible. Carrots must have foliage trimmed back to 7.5cm (3") and tied with string or elastic bands. Peas and Beans to be displayed with some stalk attached. Onions can be stood on sand on a plate, trim the tops and tied with string or bands. Tomatoes must be displayed with calyces (the green flower bud case), they can be stood on sand on a plate. Beetroot to be plated. Gently wash potatoes, carrots, apples and dry. Wipe clean beetroot and tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and courgettes.

Cut flowers - you can use any vase and can put newspaper or oasis in the vase to hold the flowers in place. The flowers will be viewed from all sides.

We do hope this event takes place, but if we are unable to, we will let the village know as soon as possible.

The committee

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

Do you remember the winter before?  
Long and cold,  
an igloo built in a neighbouring garden,  
icicles two feet long, glassy-bright.  
Single-glazed conservatory  
groaning with the weight of snow.

Do you remember in 1969,  
grainy pictures of a man  
stepping off a ladder  
on to the face of the moon  
as we huddled, at night  
around a black and white television  
screen smaller than a chess board.

Do you remember the night of curfew?  
I broke off from decorating the kitchen,  
sat in my boiler suit as Boris Johnson  
leaned towards the camera,  
two fists, one white with tension,  
eyes heavy from the weight of responsibility,  
sad and resolute in their task  
viewed on a high-definition colour screen, bigger  
than a family suitcase.

Two events with a human centre-stage.  
Two events, bigger and all-enveloping,  
both insurmountable, defying feeble humanity  
engraving the events on so many lives  
rich and poor high and low.  
Lives so changed forever.

Do you remember?

*by Trevor Pearce*



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## Young People

### EAST COKER PRIMARY SCHOOL



The school is open to a small number of key worker pupils and will be open over the Easter period and beyond.

We are currently painting large bunnies in rainbow colours which we will distribute around the village area and walks. We normally do this for our Easter walk, but we won't be having that this year.

We will keep the bunnies out for about three weeks to aid social distancing, so if anyone in the village wants to do a 'spot the bunny' they are more than welcome to do so when they do their daily exercise. There will be six bunnies to find, and we will put them out by the end of next week.

Kind regards

Jane Hesketh-Williams, Head Teacher

### EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

All scouting is currently on hold until further notice, although we hope many will take advantage of the material and badges available to do from home.

2020 began well, with the Scouts coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in the District 5-a-side football competition; well done to Emily, Erin, Faye, Ruby and Charlie. Chinese New Year saw the Scouts making spring rolls, and on Pancake Day they tried making identical pancakes.



Preparations had begun for our main outdoor events though these will now not go ahead. The Cubs have been to the Police Station where they had an amazing time; being locked in the cells, trying on riot gear, having their fingerprints taken and being caged in the police van. Four Cubs were presented with their Chief Scout's Silver Award and one more has now finished too. Weekly challenges are now being sent home for the Cubs to try as well as to maintain work towards their badges and awards.

The Beavers tried Burns Night activities and cress planting and were to go on to try bug hotels. They too have badges to work for at home now.

We have agreed with the District to open an Explorer Scouts section for 14.5–18 years old members. Unfortunately, after our first planning meeting the virus broke out!

Ruby provided photos and a talk about her experiences at last year's World Scout Jamboree during the Village Quiz and thanked the many people who were there that had helped with the fundraising necessary to get her to America.

We have a leak in the Scout Hut roof and have been unsuccessful with a National Lottery application, so we will need to look elsewhere for funding so it can be repaired before next autumn. The proceeds from the Village Quiz will go towards this work. There are always plenty of tasks to maintain the hut. We look forward to commencing all our activities again once it is safe to do so.

### **Spring Jumble Sale: Saturday 18 April - CANCELLED**

### **Autumn Jumble Sale: Saturday 17 October – 2.00pm at East Coker Hall**

Ideally, please bring your items for the jumble sale to the East Coker Hall after 9.00am on the day of the sale. If this is not possible, please contact Max Bugler 862186 if you wish anything collected in the week before the jumble sale.

### **Newspaper collections – CANCELLED**

We are considering whether we will continue with newspaper collections due to the reduced quantity we now receive. Once the current situation is over, we will let you know; we will definitely have at least one more collection so please continue to keep your papers for us. If you have too many, please drop them at Max's house when convenient for you.

David Webber, Group Scout Leader [eastcokerscouts@gmail.com](mailto:eastcokerscouts@gmail.com)

## **EAST COKER VILLAGE QUIZ**

This year's Village Quiz was sold out again. 21 teams gathered in early March, well prepared with quiz knowledge and well supplied with snacks, nibbles and liquid refreshment. Our favourite answers include "How many letters can there be in a racehorse's name?" Answer 128 (can't wait to hear the commentator get his tongue round that one!) and that the WD in WD40 stands for Wonder Duster. It will always be Wonder Duster in our house from now on!



It was in the end a close-run affair that saw 6 teams tying for first place at half time. Judging by the comments afterwards it seems that the lyrics marathon round may have been the nemesis for several teams, but not for the Wheelers who emerged victorious 2 points ahead of the Poetry Group and 5 points clear of the Early Train. And it was a first for the Dregs who took home the coveted Crème Eggs. The Crème Egg Crew will have to change their name at this rate.

Well done everyone and many, many thanks to all those who attended. Just over £1,000 was raised to keep the roof on the Scout Hut, and the scouts are very grateful.

We hope you enjoyed your evening and look forward to seeing you next year on 6 March 2021. The Cockerel Trophy is already engraved and ready.

The Quiz Gopher [eastcokerscouts@gmail.com](mailto:eastcokerscouts@gmail.com)





I write this in the most surreal of times. East Coker Preschool is closed until further notice to all except keyworker parents who require childcare in order to carry out their vital role. If we had been told this would be the situation earlier in the year, we would never have believed it! Instead of making Easter cards with the children, we are all socially distancing.

One of the favourite activities our children enjoy is a listening moment, when we stop and just listen to the sounds in our environment. Identifying sounds is a key skill for children along their journey to reading and writing. This free activity can be done by all, in the home, garden and during our daily walk. Have fun listening and maybe noting what you hear on different days. Have a look at our Facebook page, East Coker Preschool, for other activities and ideas whilst in lockdown.

East Coker Preschool will return to full operation as soon as allowed. Until then, do contact us via email or phone to place your child on our waiting list. 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](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) the Childcare Choices website which makes it easy to find out what's on offer.

### **East Chinnock Under Fives Preschool**

During the COVID-19 closure of East Chinnock Under Fives Preschool, keyworker parents have been offered places at East Coker Preschool. But please do contact us via the email below to place your child on our waiting list. If you are seeking childcare for your 2-year old, East Chinnock Under Fives playgroup accepts children from their 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday to starting school. The setting has large outdoor space and a cosy playroom full of resources to facilitate playing and learning. East Chinnock Under Fives playgroup is a smaller group and this can be a great benefit to the younger children.

### **Afternoon Baby & Toddler Session – postponed until further notice**

East Chinnock Under Fives playgroup normally run a Baby & Toddler Session on Thursday afternoon from 1.30pm to 3.00pm when everyone is welcome.

To find out more information, please look at our Facebook page, East Chinnock Playgroup.

For more information and to put your child/children on the waiting list for either East Coker Playgroup or East Chinnock Under Fives,

Please contact Kay Strobe on 07503751133 or email [ecplaygroup@aol.com](mailto:ecplaygroup@aol.com)

## **The Churches**

### **THE CHAPEL - EAST COKER**

We are of course very disappointed that we can't meet at the East Coker Hall on Sunday mornings at present, however Church is still happening.

Take a look at the Chapel website [www.eastcokerchapel.com](http://www.eastcokerchapel.com). We now have a video section (currently hiding under 'about us') where you will find short sermons and messages. There are also audio recordings from our Sunday gatherings.

There is also lots more on the chapel Facebook page; don't have Facebook? Don't worry! You can still view content on the Chapel Facebook page without signing up. Just scroll to the bottom of the Chapel website front page and click the 'f' in the white circle. You may be asked to sign up, just click 'not now'. On the Chapel Facebook page, you will find Christian music videos, articles and short sermons.

A Bible verse for this time:

Isaiah 43:2 – When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up, the flames will not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy one of Israel, your Saviour.

Tel 07939 274590 or 07800 746754

## **ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH**

Sadly, not only have all Church Services and activities across the Coker Ridge Benefice been cancelled but now all Churches across the nation are to be closed. It had been hoped that we might be able to decorate St Michael's for Easter for people to visit, but alas this will no longer be possible.

If you have any special needs or support with prayers, please contact our Rector, the Rev'd Colin Simpson. tel 01935 862429 or email [rectorcokerridge@gmail.com](mailto:rectorcokerridge@gmail.com).

If you are not already receiving the Pew Sheet News with helpful thoughts etc please contact Christine Vince. the PCC secretary [christine.vince2@btinternet.com](mailto:christine.vince2@btinternet.com) or tel 863429

**Coker Ridge Benefice has a new website [www.cokerridge.org.uk](http://www.cokerridge.org.uk)**

## **COPING THROUGH CORONAVIRUS FROM SAMARITANS YEOVIL**

The onset of coronavirus has been deeply unsettling for everyone. At Yeovil Samaritans, we're committed to helping those who are struggling, however we can.

Because of coronavirus, there are a lot of unknowns about the immediate and long-term future.

It's normal for change, that's outside of our control, to be worrying.

And it's also normal for decreased social contact to affect your mood and mental wellbeing.

Whilst we are physically isolated, it's more important than ever for us to feel socially connected, so try and reach out to people to talk, and try to be there to listen to others.

Samaritans is a critical service, needed now more than ever. In light of latest government advice, our volunteers are working hard to support the people who need us most wherever possible.

While we've taken the difficult decision to stop offering face to face support in our branches, and training sessions for new volunteers, and it may take us longer to answer the phone or answer emails, we're taking as many calls as we can.

Here are some hints and tips which may help you through the next few weeks:

Create a daily routine for yourself and try and stick to it. Make sure it involves a phone call, video link, email or text to friends or family to make sure they're doing OK and to ensure you stay connected.

Turn the radio on! Download a podcast of your favourite radio show, or tune into a local radio station such as Radio Ninesprings, BBC Somerset and Abbey 104 FM which may help you to feel more connected to your community. If you're brave enough, you could even take part in a phone in!

Find a community Facebook Group such as Yeovil 'Real' News or Sherborne News and Views. You can find out where to pick up fresh eggs and bread to when the International Space Station might be passing overhead!

Exercise. And you don't need to go outside to get your step count up. There are loads of free online exercise classes you can participate in either live (more motivating) or on YouTube which you can participate in at your leisure. Or why not turn up the volume on the radio and dance to tunes on 'The Breeze' while you're cleaning, or at the very least, do some gentle stretching for mobility purposes. If you're lucky enough to have a garden, the dry weather and onset of Spring is ideal for getting out there and getting your trowel stuck in.

Take up knitting. Join an online group and start knitting for a cause or for yourself. Great for keeping your mind absorbed, your hands active and for getting through long evenings.

Develop controlled breathing techniques. If you start to feel anxious, focusing on your breathing will really help. Here's how:

- Breathe in for four seconds
- Hold your breath for four seconds
- Breathe out for four seconds
- Wait four seconds before repeating

Make a note of some numbers you can call for support:

If you are feeling overwhelmed and distressed about anything going on in your life remember you can call Samaritans FREE on 116 123

Mindline are offering emotional support specifically relating to coronavirus on 01823 276 892.

If you suspect you have coronavirus, call NHS 111.

Above all, be kind to yourself if you have a day where you don't manage to distract yourself - we are human and what we are doing is extremely difficult.

## Village News

### **SOUTH SOMERSET DISTRICT COUNCIL**

The South Somerset District Council are committed to helping communities in South Somerset through the effects of COVID-19 and whilst this pandemic continues to affect our day-to-day lives, we will provide as much information about our services and information from the Government as possible.

As we write this (25 March), we have just set up an online system for businesses to access Government Grants following an announcement from the Chancellor about support available for businesses that will help them over the coming months to get through these tough times. We advise everyone to keep checking our website for the latest information – [www.southsomerset.gov.uk](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk). Information is changing at such a fast pace and new content coming out that it would be wrong of us to provide it all here because by the time you receive this, it might be out of date.

You can also follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/SouthSomersetDistrictCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/SouthSomersetDistrictCouncil) where we're giving out as much information as we can or on Twitter [www.twitter.com/southsomersetdc](https://www.twitter.com/southsomersetdc).

Check out the latest situation about waste services on the Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) website [www.somersetwaste.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk) or follow SWP on Facebook [www.facebook.com/somersetwaste](https://www.facebook.com/somersetwaste) or Twitter [www.twitter.com/somersetwaste](https://www.twitter.com/somersetwaste).

Martin Hacker  
Specialist - Communications, Marketing and Media  
Strategy and Commissioning  
South Somerset District Council

### **CANCELLED – PLANT & CAKE SALE. END OF MAY 2020.**

There will be no plant and cake sale this year.

However, I still have all the plants! A wide selection of perennials and 30 plus different types of summer bedding, available from mid-May. Everything you need for beds, tubs, window boxes, hanging baskets etc.

Call me if you would like to know more details. I will gladly deliver within the village.

Kate, tel 07796 991592 or 01935 862446

### **GOOSE SLADE FARM SHOP**

With the current restrictions in place we have needed to adapt rapidly, but rest assured that as long as we and our staff are well, and we are able to source stock we are here to serve. We are continuing to open Tuesday to Saturday but have changed our hours to 10am-4pm. We now only allow staff into the shop.

We can take orders by telephone, but only within opening hours, please do not leave orders on the answerphone. Alternatively, orders can be taken via email, or we now have an online shop which is click & collect via our website. We expect to have orders ready in 1-2 working days.

For telephone and email orders, we will ring to let you know when your order is ready and also take card payment over the phone. Online orders are paid for when ordering, you will receive an email when the order is ready for collection.

We are unable to deliver orders, but if you really can't find anyone to collect on your behalf, please talk to us. We look forward to things getting back to normal but feel this could be the way for some time, keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for any changes and as everyone is now saying "stay safe and stay well".

Tel 01935 863735. Email [goosesladefarm@gmail.com](mailto:goosesladefarm@gmail.com) [www.thegoosefarm.com](http://www.thegoosefarm.com)

## WEST COKER GARAGE

At the time of writing, West Coker Garage have certain supplies available – phone 01935 862735 to place your order and pay over the phone. It will then be made available for collection.

## HALSTOCK VILLAGE SHOP UPDATE

We have been asked to say that that the shop is very sorry that they are unable to cope with demands for supplies from outside Halstock village.

## ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

Sadly, in these difficult times we have had to cancel our Cream Tea delivery in June - at the moment both local and national. We will review the situation in a month or so, but I think it is unlikely to go ahead this year.

We are still hoping to hold our Diva Lunch in October but will update you on this in the next newsletter.

Stay safe and well.

Jane Donnelly 01935 478409 or [janedonnelly81@outlook.com](mailto:janedonnelly81@outlook.com)

**LACEYS**

- Friendly, professional, local staff
- Regulated by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
- Family-run business

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"Excellent service, very friendly and professional, many many thanks"  
Mr H

"Dedicated, patient, consistent and prompt to follow-up, respond and do everything [they] could to help it through"  
Mr D

"If you have any doubts which Local estate agent to use then look no further - great, genuine, honest people"  
Mr & Mrs J

"From start to finish, Laceys Estate Agents provided 5 star service"  
Mrs P

**Laceys Yeovil Ltd**  
12 - 14 Hendford | Yeovil | BA20 1TE  
**01935 425 115**  
[laceysyeovil.co.uk](http://laceysyeovil.co.uk)

**RICS** If you have instructed another agent on a Sole Agency or Sole Selling Rights basis, the terms of those instructions must be considered to avoid a possible liability to pay two commissions.

**The Property Ombudsman**

## **EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Coronavirus**

Things seem to be developing on an hourly basis, and we suspect that by the time this goes to print, we will all have been informed to isolate ourselves from everybody. The issue of loneliness was a very serious concern before coronavirus, but now more than ever we need to pull together as a community. Can we urge everyone who has an elderly friend, relative or neighbor, to give them a call as frequently as possible to see if they need anything or just for a chat. For some, this will be the only contact with the outside world that they will have.

For more information about what the Parish Council are doing, please visit [www.eastcokerparish.co.uk](http://www.eastcokerparish.co.uk) or use the link below where you will learn about food deliveries, take-aways, shopping, and other things that will be going on during these uncertain times. This will be updated regularly as more things are announced. <http://www.eastcokerparish.co.uk/covid19>

### **Parish Councillors**

The Parish Council would like to welcome two new Councillors, Mrs Tania Wilkins and Mr Huxley Cowen. We look forward to working with them in the future.

We still have one Councillor vacancy available, so if you feel you can give up a few hours each month to help make important decisions which affect the Parish, then please send a letter of intent to [clerk@eastcokerparish.com](mailto:clerk@eastcokerparish.com).

### **Christmas Celebrations**

Unfortunately, the Village Café will not be able to host the Christmas Eve Celebrations this year.

### **Community Lunch 13 June**

Unfortunately, this will now be postponed until later in the year when we will all enjoy a jolly good get-together at the Cafe.

### **Enjoying our Countryside**

The lambing season is not even in full swing yet, but sadly there have already been two reports of dog attacks in our Village. One of which, a Ewe, was attacked and then just left in the field seriously injured for the unfortunate farmer to find, and another which sustained very serious wounds.

Can we, please, remind all dog owners that under the 1953 (Protection of Livestock Act) you can be prosecuted for letting your dog worry sheep, and the 1971 (Animal Act) entitles a farmer to shoot a dog which is clearly worrying or attacking their livestock. None of us want this to happen, so please always keep dogs on leads in or around fields of sheep.

### **Coker Seedling**

Do you have a Coker Seedling Apple tree in your garden? If so, please contact the Clerk [clerk@eastcokerparish.com](mailto:clerk@eastcokerparish.com) as we are interested to know how many of these remain in our village.

Do you have a large garden and would like to somebody to grow vegetables in it? In other words, use it as an allotment? Again, please contact the Clerk. There are many folks wishing to grow vegetables but very little space for them to do it. We probably do need to think about growing our own food at this time.

### **Roads**

Please be advised that the blocked drains between Kingspring Lane and Burton Lane have been reported. This was done two months ago, but at the moment SSDC are dealing with a back log of emergency calls. Given the way things are in the country at present, I think we need to just be patient and accept they will be done at some point in the future.

## **Village Ranger**

Due to the coronavirus situation, our ranger Karen will not be visiting the village until further notice. The majority of the dog waste bins in our village are emptied by her, so these will now be sealed until further notice. Can we ask that you take the waste home and put it in your black waste bin.

The bins which SSDC empty will remain usable at the moment. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE**

Fiona writes that there are fabulous ideas in the "Coker and Corona" Bulletins, she's so glad we're all looking after each other, and she will be mentioning this on their Facebook page as a good example of how we're managing things in East Coker.

Fiona has copied in PC Georgie Crittenden who is their Beat Manager for the area so that she is also aware.

Regards, Fiona Wilson PCSO 8380

Neighbourhood Policing Dept | Avon and Somerset Police  
Yeovil Police Station, Horsey Lane, YEOVIL, Somerset BA20 1SN  
Tel 101 Mob 07889 659261

[www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk) Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

Email [fiona.wilson@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:fiona.wilson@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

## **ALLOTMENTS**

I have been enquiring about the provision of allotments locally to see what is available. I have asked East Coker Parish Council about whether they could provide space for allotments and they have said they would look into it if more than six people were interested. I have been asked about it several times in the past, so I know there is some interest, but this is quite the worst time to easily make contact with people.

If you would be interested in having an allotment in East Coker, could you contact me please, Gill Evans, [gillian.evans737@btinternet.com](mailto:gillian.evans737@btinternet.com) or telephone 862703.

## **AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED)**

It is nearly five years since we installed the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) in the East Coker Hall.

Fortunately, there has been no call to use it, but in a town very close to East Coker a community AED was recently used and saved a person's life. The AED battery lasts 5 years so Sarah and I have donated a replacement along with new chest pads. The AED is there in the Hall for anyone to use and potentially save someone's life.

Some points to remember:

- 1. If someone near you has a cardiac arrest you are their only chance of survival so call for help and immediately start CPR (Chest compressions). If you can add rescue breaths (mouth to mouth) then do so but compressions alone may keep the person alive.**
- 2. Open the Defibrillator and switch it on, the machine will tell you exactly what to do, follow the instructions, you cannot harm the patient.**
- 3. Keep going as long as you can, only stop CPR if the person wakes up, a paramedic arrives and takes over or you are alone and become completely exhausted.**

Hopefully, we won't need to use the AED in the next five years either but don't be afraid to do so should the need arise.

Drs Andrew & Sarah Summers

## OD ARTS FESTIVAL 2020

A year ago, when we first dreamed up our theme for Od Arts Festival 2020, we could never have imagined how relevant it would become.

*Alone with Everybody* was our way of thinking about solitude – as experienced by people close to us in our community, as well as an important part of the creative process for artists and writers. We also sought to understand global trends of nationalism and isolationism, emerging in countries around the world.

Now, as COVID-19 spreads rapidly in populations globally, more of us are starting to realise that isolation is not only something suffered by – or a luxury afforded to – certain people. Isolation might also be an ethical choice to withdraw. Isolation has become a way in which we can protect our communities, even while forming communities is the best way of caring for those who are alone.

As we launched our festival programme at our Solitary Encounters seminar last week, we were hoping that Od Arts Festival could go ahead as planned. But with the latest predictions indicating that the peak of the pandemic is likely to happen in the UK in May and June, it is clear that this is not going to be possible.

### **We have decided to postpone Od Arts Festival 2020 until Autumn.**

It is important to us that everyone, especially vulnerable people in our community, have the opportunity to experience artworks and share ideas, without putting their health at risk. But we will honour our obligation to all participating artists to present and pay for their work – we are aware that it is going to be a tough year for freelancers and creative workers.

We're so grateful for the continued support and understanding of our artists, funders, partners and wider community. Please take care and we'll be in touch soon.

The Festival Team; Simon, Vickie, Chantelle & Rowan x

[www.osrprojects.co.uk](http://www.osrprojects.co.uk) and [www.odartsfestival.co.uk](http://www.odartsfestival.co.uk)

## NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **July 2020**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay at [l.lindsay@eastcoker.com](mailto:l.lindsay@eastcoker.com) by **Tuesday 23 June 2020 or before if possible**.

**PS: There is no quarterly diary in this issue.**

### **Footnote: East Coker maintains wartime spirit**

