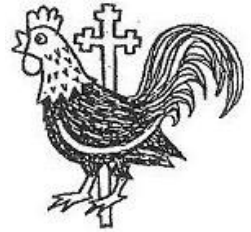


East Coker Society Newsletter



April 2021

Free Issue No 182

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Secretary: Sarah Owen:	862218	
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East Coker Society News

Happy Easter!

At the time of publication, the clocks have already gone forward an hour for British Summer Time with longer days and all the anticipation of warmer weather ahead.

We are also moving into the phased release from our third lockdown, so hopefully we can return to some semblance of normality. We are all looking forward to engaging with families and friends as well as returning to all our activities.

East Coker Society plans to go ahead with the Winter Fayre this year, so please make a note in your diaries for **Saturday 23 October, 2.00pm to 4.00pm**. If you would like to book a table, please contact me so that I can reserve a space for you.

Please do not forget to print out this Newsletter for those who are unable to receive it online. We will continue to distribute entirely by email and make it available on our website. For future issues, we will make some printed copies available at Goose Slade Farm Shop, Helyar Arms, St Michael and All Angels' Church, the Village Café, and East Coker Hall.

Sarah Owen
Secretary, East Coker Society

Village Clubs and Organisations

EAST COKER WI

It seems that due to the current restrictions, the end of May will be the earliest we can plan for a meeting at the East Coker Hall. We do hope that all members of the Institute will by then have had or have been offered the vaccine.

It has been a long, and for some, a lonely winter. Members of the committee have endeavoured to keep some contact going with those in the unfortunate position of shielding and/or living alone.

On a brighter note, as the Annual Subscriptions have become due, the National Federation has allowed each Institute to waive their allotted amount and so we have a reduced subscription this year.

If anyone would like to join our WI, especially those who have moved to this beautiful area during lockdown, please contact our Secretary, Ruby Rollo on 475010 for all details. We meet on the last Thursday of the month at East Coker Hall at 7.30pm

Joyce Pryor

EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

Our social Zoom meetings still take place on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm, and anyone wanting details should contact me via our website contact page or email to info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk.

David Cloke
www.eastcoker.com

TIME TO SHARE

We have some exciting news this time. We are holding our Birthday Party on Tuesday 6 July at The Village Café.

We cannot wait to get back together again, and surely this will give us all some hope that life will get back to normal soon.

We still Zoom every Monday afternoon and are very happy to include anyone who is not a member, but would like to be included, in a merry chat about everything under the sun and get news of all members who might need a phone call.

I cannot wait to hug everybody again, so watch out East Coker when I am free to do so!!

Sandra and Anne

EAST COKER PLAYERS.

We started the new year with a Zoom AGM. Anne, our Chairperson, reflected on a very different year with no Pantomime. Members elected our new committee and discussed the future.

Even though we have no firm plans at the moment, we are thinking positive thoughts!

Let's hope that the 'data' allows the 'dates' we are hoping for. We want to be entertaining everyone and putting smiles on faces as soon as possible! If all goes well, that should mean a pantomime in November!!

As soon as we can, we will be emailing members with details of how we move on.

If you would like to be notified, please contact Chairperson Anne Hartley 862060 or Secretary Hazel Giddings 429163

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH

Despite challenges of the pandemic, which saw a rethink of initial plans, the 2020 Poppy Appeal still went ahead.

House to House collections did not take place, only 15 collecting boxes were distributed in the East Coker District.

Our total to date is £3,548. Thank you to our schools, shops and businesses, plus those who made individual donations.

To date, the total income raised for Poppy Appeal 2020 is Sixty-three and a Half Million Pounds.

Even with the full lockdown in many areas over the second week of the Appeal, that sum is quite remarkable.

We live in a most charitable country, which continues to support all those in need.

Regarding the 2021 Poppy Appeal, our Organiser Dave Giles is awaiting information.

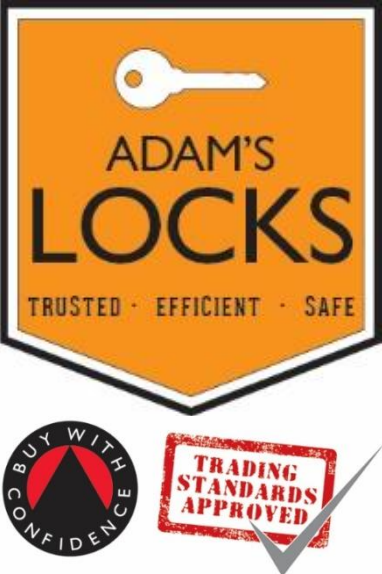
Sadly, we've had to cancel our usual May Cheese & Wine evening. It is hoped the 2021 Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning will be held in October.

Thank-you all for your continued support.

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

Marilyn Smith Secretary, tel 863944, email mazza1944@outlook.com

Dave Giles Membership, tel 07733223806, email: dgiles39@gmail.com



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EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

We have been having meetings via Zoom. This remarkable technology is allowing our members to socialise again, after most of our scheduled programme had to be cancelled because of the Government restrictions due to the spread of Covid-19.

First, we had a fun virtual Wine Tasting in January. In February, we had an enjoyable evening of Quiz fun. In March, we had another Wine Tasting evening, it was in the style of "would I lie to you".

Wednesday 7 April at 7.30pm - we are holding a Quiz Evening. Via Zoom.

Monday 5 May at 7.30pm – to be arranged.

Wednesday 2 June - AGM and possible Wine Tasting, via Zoom.

Saturday 4 July - Summer Event.

The committee have put together an exciting programme from August for next year. We hope, with restrictions lifting, we may get back to meeting in the East Coker Hall.

All may change, please check to see if it is by Zoom or in the East Coker Hall.

'See you at the bottom of the glass'.

If you would like to be involved or join a like-minded group of people, contact ecwctipple@btinternet.com

Sarah Rashley

EAST COKER FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW

It is with great regret that we have to announce that we will not be able to hold a show this year. After much deliberation and correspondence with judges etc, we have decided it is too much of a risk. The health and safety issues and other measures were a factor. We are planning to be back next year, bigger and better.

Thank you for your patience, please stay safe.

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EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

Sadly, no meetings have taken place since the lockdown at the end of March last year. We do have some plans for potential meetings later this year, but they are reliant on government guidance and the re-opening of the East Coker Hall.

The Committee Members have continued to prepare and distribute *'The Propagator'*, our monthly newsletter, with contributions from our members which have been much appreciated. Members received their compost order forms and discount cards for use at the Gardens Group centres during January and February. The March issue was printed and distributed to our members, along with a fuchsia plug-plant for growing on to enter the Club's summer competition.

We know, from speaking to our members, that the monthly meetings continue to be much missed. They not only inform, but they are a very sociable, enjoyable evening. 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 will continue to produce *The Propagator*, which Linda will send out via email to as many members as she can. If you do not 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

EAST COKER HALL CHARITABLE TRUST

Due to Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Hall remains closed until further notice and keycards have been disabled. In accordance with Government guidelines, the Hall may be opened for some specific reasons. Committee members will continue to carry out checks on the Hall and ensure that it is cleaned and maintained.

Our Chairman issued the following update to our regular users, which gives a good indication of when the Hall may re-open:

Update on lockdown and re-opening – March 2021

The 4-step “roadmap” out of lockdown came with guidance for village/community halls, issued on 22 February, which was then contradicted by guidance issued on 25 February. However, with the help of our good friends at ACRE, we now think that we have clarity about the way forward.

In the main, halls will remain closed until 17 May at the earliest with some limited exceptions allowed from 12 April at the earliest. “At the earliest” is an important rider, as all dates given are subject to government review and potential change. Even then a full re-opening of the Hall will not come before 21 June.

From 12 April at the earliest

- All indoor children’s activities including dance classes and musical activities, but not exercise classes.
- Parent and child groups may open indoors, e.g. parent and toddler groups, but with a limit of 15 maximum attending plus under 5’s.
- Social distancing must be monitored with no indoor mixing allowed between different households.
- Any organisation wishing to book in these circumstances must contact John Hollis on 01935 863002 for confirmation that the booking would be permissible under the regulations.
- At this stage, we will not allow weddings or funerals, given the limits imposed.
- Local elections may take place on Thursday 6 May.

From 17 May at the earliest

- Controlled indoor events may take place with up to 50% of the capacity of the Hall for any planned event. Hopefully, greater clarity as to what precisely this means will be forthcoming!!
- Indoor sports activities including, for example, exercise classes and badminton may take place.
- We will review the position regarding weddings, funerals, and receptions, but there would be a limit of 30.
- The “rule of 6” will apply to indoor events. Guidance on social contact between friends and family will be reviewed by the government prior to this date.

From 21 June at the earliest

- All legal limits on social contact will be removed.
- Dancing will be permitted.
- Restrictions on the numbers permitted at weddings, funerals and receptions will be abolished.

I hope that this gives you a reasonably clear picture of where we stand at the moment and of the hopes for the way forward into the summer. If things change, or we get further information and clarity, I will issue further updates.

John Hollis, Chairman – East Coker Village Hall Management Committee.

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

Young People

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

Scouting has continued online with Zoom so far this year. We have been holding quizzes and scavenger hunts and trying some very clever paper cutting. We learned about prominent women for International Women’s Day, and various cakes, from cinnamon swirls to brownies, have been cooked collectively.



Now we are about to return to face-to-face scouting – from 29 March we can meet outside, and currently, from Monday 12 April, we can also meet indoors.

Each section is planning its return and associated activity programme in accordance with our approved COVID-19 risk assessment and the Scout Association 'Back Together Safely' Amber Readiness Level guidelines.

Please contact us if you have a young person who would like to join us or if you are able to provide time supporting any of our sections.

At the hut, we are pleased with the protection fitted around the gutters and downpipes by the Parish Council – thank you. We will have a new floor fitted for the main hall before Easter. Fundraising has been impossible since COVID started, and we are not planning Jumble sales or Newspaper Collections at present for this year. However, we are determined to run the Village Quiz as soon as we can - even if that is in October!

We really hope you will be seeing us out and about safely again soon.

David Webber, Group Scout Leader
eastcokerscouts@gmail.com

East Coker Village Quiz

We remain resolved to run the Quiz in 2021 and continue to watch the changes in COVID restrictions and vaccination roll out such that, should it become possible, we will contact everyone with a new date.

The Quiz Gopher
eastcokerscouts@gmail.com



EAST COKER PRIMARY SCHOOL



It has been such a pleasure to be able to welcome back all our families to East Coker Primary School once again after our reopening in March. It has been an exceptionally challenging time for all our families and staff, more so than the previous lockdown and we are so pleased to be able to teach our children face to face again.

During school closure, we were open for 86 key worker pupils which equates to about 38% of our school population. As such, all classrooms were open and staffed either by support staff or teachers, and the children followed the remote learning provision.

The staff planned a very full timetable for our home learners, and they started the day with the daily live sessions which the children in juniors could remote into. Due to sharing of devices, our infant team provided daily videos, which parents could access at any time.

Staff uploaded work each day with links to support parents and children and feedback was given for most pieces of work completed each day. We were pleased to be able to provide an outstanding level of feedback, far above government once a week expectation.

In addition to our 'Pick and Mix' style activities, we also managed to provide a 'Well-Being Wednesday' and 'Feel Good Friday'. On 'Well-Being Wednesday', we provided sports and well-being activities to help the children alongside some basic skills sessions. On 'Feel Good Friday' we continued with our Friday singing for infants and juniors via videos on our school website as well as weekly music and watercolour art lessons.

In keeping with our normal school timetable, we have also had several additional events such as a King and Queens Day, Safer Internet Day, World Book Day and some STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) days. In addition to this were weekly infant and junior assemblies, weekly infant story times, Friday show and tell sessions and Mr Rich presented a special weekly Podcast. Needless to say, it has been a very busy few months!

We are also very lucky to have such an amazing pastoral team in place at East Coker Primary School. We have managed to offer additional, virtual, one to one or group teaching sessions led by teaching assistants and teachers, as well as provide weekly check-ins with families needing additional support. Our ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) was able to continue her well-being one to one sessions with pupils virtually. Our Parent Family Support Advisor has also been very busy supporting families during this time.

Back in school, things are running similarly to how they were in the autumn term, although we have made smaller group bubbles to prevent the spread of COVID-19 should we get a case in school. This means that assemblies are currently taking place virtually and children have staggered breaks and lunchtimes as well as set areas they are allowed to play in. Music tuition is still taking place for piano, woodwind, guitar and drums, and we welcome back Mr Bertie for brass tuition in the summer term for all of Year 3, albeit with a detailed risk assessment in place.

Priorities for us for the remainder of the academic year are the welfare and well-being of the children, while closing gaps in learning in areas which were impossible to do at home, such as Mod Roc crowns! As a school, we are really looking forward to our summer term topic -THE WILDERNESS. We have many exciting geography and science activities planned, from survival weeks to welly walks and exciting art projects using our local environment. We are keen to get out and about in the local area as we are yet unable to go on visits further afield.

As we move into the warmer if not dryer months, we are also really looking forward to coming together as a whole school on our playground for assemblies, when the weather decides to behave. We have missed our interactions with other children and staff and are really excited about getting back to some sort of normality, and soon.

Don't forget to look out for the bunnies around the village which our children in Reception have decorated!

Jane Hesketh-Williams
Head Teacher

EAST COKER PLAYGROUP Find us on www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk

The Playgroup has remained open throughout the National Lockdown (in line with government guidance), supporting all the families that needed childcare. Children have been exploring transport and finding out about all the different ways to move. They made cards and potted a flowering plant for Mother's Day. We have also enjoyed activities around books, Room on the Broom, Each Peach Pear Plum and Snow Bear.

Our wonderful garden has provided space to run, jump, imagine and grow.

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 fundraising event raising money on behalf of the Playgroup will be the:

- **Craft Fair - Saturday 20 November 2021 East Coker Hall.** Stalls available, for more information and to book a stall, email judiswan@live.co.uk

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.

East Chinnock Under Fives Preschool

Following COVID-19 guidance and updating operating systems as required to keep everyone safe and well.

Open with places available now.

If you are seeking childcare for your 2-year-old, East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup accepts children from their 2nd birthday to starting school. The setting has a 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.

Baby & Toddler Session – still suspended due to COVID-19

As soon as allowed and safe to do so, we will commence our Baby and Toddler Session.

East Chinnock Under Fives playgroup run a Baby & Toddler Session on Thursday afternoon from 1.30pm to 3.00pm. Pop along and join in the social distancing fun, everyone is welcome. To find out more information, please visit our Facebook page, East Chinnock Playgroup.


For more information and to register your child/children for either East Coker Playgroup or East Chinnock Under Fives, please contact Kay Strobe on 07503 751133 or email ecplaygroup@aol.com.



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The Churches

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

This past sad period of closed Churches has continued but there is always 'Hope', and some have found it a useful time for reflection. We have improved our IT skills and our Rector Colin Simpson has been zooming Holy Communion Services from the Rectory which have been accessed by a new "online" congregation. We cannot hark back to the past but must embrace the opportunities which a new "normal" will bring.

The Cokerridge Benefice of seven churches brings together a richness of talents. Our monthly pattern of Services at St Michael's is under review but Easter Sunday will be celebrated with an 11.00am Holy Communion Service under continued COVID-19 safety restrictions of limited numbers, and alas, still no singing but hopefully an organist to gladden our ears with the sound of wonderful Easter hymns of hope.. This Service will also be Zoomed from the Church.

Easter Hearts of Hope Packages have been placed round the village for all to access and enjoy. Mother's Day Cards were sent to parishioners in the absence of posies of flowers. Plans are under way to present the School leavers at East Coker Primary School with the Scripture Union booklet, 'It's Your Move', full of useful advice on their move to Secondary school. We hope that the lifting of restrictions will enable us to invite them again to a tea party.

Deborah Wootton, our young Families coordinator, has set up a Virtual Messy Church, full of fun and ideas, which can be accessed online by clicking on cokerridge.org website. The weekly emailed Pew Sheet, with copy on the Church noticeboard in the Paddock, will keep you informed. Contact Christine Vince, PCC Secretary, if you have difficulty in receiving it tel 01936 863429. For other needs contact Rev'd Colin Simpson, The Rectory, 7 Cedar Fields, West Coker, BA22 9DB, tel 01935 862429, email rectorcokerridge@gmail.com.

Jacqueline

Episode Four: A New Hope

I would be surprised if anyone growing up in 1970's does not associate these few words with the beginning of the first film in the Star Wars franchise. I certainly remember it being radically different from anything I had seen before and find, as with other great stories of the battle between good and evil, I return to this film and its successors over and over again. They are entertaining, and having seen them all before I know how the story ends, but I think there is more to it than this. I believe that it shows us a model with which to connect to the message of hope that we have in our own story, in our journey of faith.

We know the final ending of our pilgrimage of faith. We have been promised that through Jesus we are reconciled with God and that at the end of the exile of this life on earth we will be re-united with Him to spend eternity in the glory of His presence, reunited with all whom we have loved. The challenge for us is that, unlike the various episodes in the film series, we don't know what will come next in this our sojourn on earth.

Had you told me this time last year that I would spend most of the next twelve months not worshipping in church, that I would have to learn new ways to connect with people, that we would lose so many of our friends and loved ones before their time, I would have found it hard to believe. We cannot currently see an end to this pandemic, even if the signs are promising. We do not know when our children will return to school and us to work or when the shops will reopen, nor do we know when the recovery that we and our economy need will begin. All this weighs heavy on many hearts. But what if we began to consider our current separation from each other as a natural part of life? After all, exile has been a feature of the history of the people of God from the time of the garden of Eden, and we can be encouraged by the fact that this exile, like all the previous ones, will come to an end.

Exile always becomes a time for learning and growth. Jeremiah (in Chapter 29) writes a letter to the Jews in the Babylonian exile encouraging them to settle, to build houses, to marry and be given in marriage, and to worship; in other words, to carry on with the ordinary things of life as far as they could, and also to pray for a blessing on the land and situation in which they found themselves, because God knew the plans that he had for them. Those exiles were miles away from the Temple in Jerusalem which had been the centre of their life; separated from the ritual and sacrifice they traditionally offered there, and which fulfilled God's covenant with them. Jeremiah was encouraging them to do what they could, as we can now.

In our current time of exile, we are separated from each other and the familiar things of our lives. We as a society have chosen – for the love of our neighbours – to break from our routines and regular practices (like our worship in church), in an attempt to ensure that our public services are not overwhelmed, and people are protected from infection so that more in our communities will survive this virus.

We are frustrated by all the uncertainty; we are angry that after nearly a year we cannot return to a normal life and we look for someone to blame for our predicament. All of this is a natural and normal and understandable human response – we only need to read the psalms to confirm this eternal truth – but how would it be if we were to receive the letter from Jeremiah afresh, to present this time of exile to God to use as He sees fit, and as an opportunity for us to learn? What if we were to ask Him to reveal to us the next stage in His plan for us, both individually and together in the villages that make up the Coker Ridge benefice, confident that He will answer our prayers? Are we willing to take the risk and ask God the question?

We often complain that if only we had the time to say the prayers that we would like, or to study the bible as we would wish, our faith would be stronger. How would it be then if we were to use our continuing physical separation from each other as an opportunity to engage with God in different ways? Remember that in any engagement with God (in scripture, prayer or meditation) we are united in Jesus who is the Word made flesh, and we join in company with each other and with those who now stand in the radiance of His glory and who sing His praises.

This is not a new hope. This hope is not based in the frailties of humankind, the vagaries of viruses or the rollout of vaccines or even in money or possessions but in something far greater. This hope is rooted in the

Love who breathed life into us from the very beginning, who broke the power that death has over us with His resurrection that we remember on Easter Day, and who is with us now in our troubles and who, in faith, will take us to Himself for all eternity – world without end.

Happy Easter

Rev. Colin Simpson, Rector of the Coker Ridge Benefice

THE CHAPEL AT EAST COKER HALL

If you are wondering where God is in this current pandemic, take a look at this YouTube link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ghUW4WM0Tg>.

If you would like to get in touch or would like prayer, please go to the contact page on our website where you will find our email address and the mobile numbers of our leadership team. www.eastcokerchapel.com.

Village News

PLANT AND CAKE SALE 29 MAY 2021 - CANCELLED

Due to ongoing uncertainty regarding the Coronavirus, I am cancelling the plant sale for this year. Even though we would all be outside, I do not feel it is right to have an event that would bring groups of people together in relatively close proximity.

I have a list of all the summer bedding plants for this year. If anyone would like a copy, please email me on katebest61@btinternet.com.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kate

STAMPS

When the Village Café reopens, they will accept them, so please save all your stamps for this worthy cause as they are reused to make money for this charity, which funds vital research into childhood cancers.

ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

It is with regret that we have decided not to go ahead with the Cream Tea deliveries once again this year. We would need to be buying in supplies at the moment, and with offices not being able to open until at least the end of June it was too much of a risk to take. The Charity has made as many cutbacks as it could, with unfortunately nearly three quarters of the staff being made redundant as it has been unable to do any fundraising for the last year. We are in the same position as many others I know, and in a better position than some as a long-established Charity – actually, it is 70 years this year since it was started. We are still able to carry on supporting our researchers at present in the wonderful work that they do.

We are very much hoping to be able to do our Diva Lunch on Friday 15 October, but a decision will be made when we understand nearer the time how, or if, any social distancing rules will apply.

Hopefully will have more information by the time of the next newsletter.

Jane Donnelly tel 01935 478409 or email janedonnelly81@outlook.com

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE

During mid-February 2021, police officers were on mobile patrol in the area of Finchley, London when their attention was drawn to a car. Upon searching the occupants and vehicle, a large quantity of cash was found, and within the back seats was a quantity of lists of hundreds of names, addresses, dates of birth and phone numbers. It is not known how they came to have this information, and an added concern was a

trend that the persons listed were of a certain age. Both occupants were arrested on suspicion of possessing articles to commit fraud. However, the method of committing fraud is unknown.

Your local Neighbourhood policing team have been visiting the approximately 45 people on the list in our policing area of Yeovil and outlying villages. However, we are asking, if you have been the victim of a fraud or a scam of some sort, that you report it. We have comprehensive information about scams that are getting evermore clever and anyone can fall victim to. It is said that young people are the most susceptible. If you have had anything that you suspect or had any contact or visits that might constitute an attempt to scam, or would like more information about scams, please can you contact us on **101**.

On a separate note, I am sure that we are all looking forward to the slow release of the COVID regulations but ask that everyone maintains the guidelines/rules for the health and well-being of everyone. Breaches can be reported via 101 as there is a dedicated officer to attend these reports. The dedicated officer on that day covers the whole of East Somerset but should be able to attend, advise, warn or issue £200 fines as deemed appropriate.

If you are a Facebook user, our team has recently set up a local page called Yeovil Neighbourhood Policing which might be of interest and can be followed.

Kind regards

Jackie Poole, Neighbourhood Police Constable 3573

Neighbourhood Team,
Avon and Somerset Police
Yeovil Police Station, The Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil, BA20 2HT

Tel 101 / Email jackie.poole@avonandsomerset.police.uk

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The Property Ombudsman



OD ARTS FESTIVAL

Od Arts Festival returns this May, bringing exhibitions, performances, film and workshops by local and international artists to not-so-sleepy Somerset. New and specially sited artworks will pop up around the villages of East Coker and West Coker, in cafés, halls, houses, chapels, fields and online for a special digital programme.

Set before the hiatus of the global pandemic, the guiding theme for the festival of 'Alone with Everybody', explores loneliness – what it is, how we continue to experience it, where it comes from, and how it might be addressed. A programme of playful, experimental, and performative artworks will probe different aspects of aloneness and ask visitors to discuss how it might be liberating as well as difficult to be alone.

For any more information on the festival or if you are interested in volunteering a few hours for the festival please email chantelle@osrprojects.co.uk Hope to see you there.

Chantelle, Simon and Od Arts Fest team x



4Family delivers a family support programme offering help to struggling families so that they can regain control over their own lives and feel empowered and equipped to move forward.

We offer the support of a Family Link Workers who are the families' voice amongst the agencies, but also, each family is offered a Volunteer Mentor who plays a crucial role.

Be part of a fantastic family mentoring programme which carefully matches mentors with a family living within South Somerset.

For more information about becoming a Y4F mentor, contact Andrew:
Email: andrew.dunningham@yeovil4family.org.uk tel: 07970 952653
Website: www.yeovilcommunitychurch.co.uk/yeovil-4-family/

EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

Enjoying our Countryside

The lambing season is here once again, so please adhere to the Country Code and keep your dogs on the lead in or around fields of Sheep. There have also been reports from East Coker and surrounding villages that there are people not keeping their dogs under close control. Please make sure you are mindful of people who may be nervous of dogs.

Our village is very lucky to have so many footpaths for us all to enjoy. They are all well sign posted and accessible, so please stay to the designated paths. If you are unsure of a route, there are maps available to download on the parish website <https://www.eastcokerparish.co.uk/rights-of-way/>

Coker Signs

Over the past year, some of our village signs have been stolen. The Parish Council are now giving consideration to having all the village signs set in Ham Stone. If you have a business, and feel that you may be interested in sponsoring one of the stones, please contact Clerk@eastcokerparish.com.

Litter Picking

Because of increased usage of parish footpaths and lanes, there has been an increase in litter. For those parishioners who are doing a wonderful job collecting such rubbish, the PC have invested in bag hoops, pickers and high viz vests for anyone to use. If you wish to borrow any of the equipment, please contact Bridget Sugg 07907621106.

Friday Market

From 3.00pm every Friday at the Pavilion Car Park. There is a wide selection of vegetables, meat, fish, breads, cakes and preserves so please come along and support it.

Easter Bunny Hunt

Details of our Easter Bunny Hunt are on the Parish Council website www.eastcokerparish.co.uk. Entry Forms and full details of how to enter. The Bunnies have been painted by some of the Children at East Coker School and are hidden at several places around the village. Good Luck and enjoy the fun and the Chocolate Easter Egg, if you are one of the first out of the hat. The competition is open all over the Easter Holiday, until Tuesday 6 April.

Roads

If you spot any pot holes or blocked drains around the village, these can be reported directly to SSDC via the **Fix My Street App** which is very straightforward to use <https://www.fixmystreet.com/> or report them to the Clerk Clerk@eastcokerparish.com

Village Ranger

Our ranger Karen continues to work very hard at keeping our village looking lovely. If you notice any broken stiles, please contact Bridget Sugg. 07907621106

POEM BY MAX BUGLER

Covid 19 are you there.
Floating in the open air
Are you waiting there to see?
If your able to land on me

When the farmer with his load
Of farmyard smells comes up the road
Are you similarly waiting there
Hovering in the open air

When the Oilman brings a load
To my neighbour across the road
Oily smells are in the air
Covid 19 are you there
Also waiting in the air

Bonfire smoke is in the air
You may get it in your hair
When the farmer making hay
You can smell it every day

Covid 19 are you there
Drifting in the open air

Sahara dust is on my car'
It has travelled very far
Chip shop smells are in the air too
You can buy some if you care to
Covid 19 are you there
Wafting in the open air

Traffic stink is also there
It is dangerous so beware
But kitchen smells are often good
Makes you hungry for the food
So Covid19 are you there
Mixing in the open air.

If your virus so small and light
And is so able to take flight
Covid 19 are you there
Floating floating in the Air

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **July 2021**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay at l.lindsay@eastcoker.com by **25 June 2021 or sooner if possible**.

PS: There is no quarterly diary in this issue.