

East Coker Society Newsletter



April 2023

Free Issue No 190

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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.

Coronation Saturday 6 May 2023

The country will soon have a new King Charles III and Queen Camilla, with lots of celebrations and Tea Parties all over the country on the extra Bank Holiday on 8 May 2023.

East Coker Society's AGM

The date of the Society's AGM remains to be decided.

Newsletter copies

Printed copies of this Newsletter will be made available at Goose Slade Farm Shop, the Helyar Arms, St Michael and All Angels' Church, the Village Café, and East Coker Hall.

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **July 2023**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay at l.lindsay@eastcoker.com by **Friday 23 June 2023 or sooner if possible**.

Village Clubs and Organisations

EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

Meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month at 8.00pm at East Coker Hall, unless otherwise advised.

Wednesday 5 April Tasting of Spanish wines – Mark Banham

Wednesday 3 May Lawrence Cider with Montgomery cheese guests are always welcome £3.

Wednesday 7 June AGM and a mystery wine tasting.

In July, we have our Summer Event.

Take care and see you all at the bottom of a glass ☺ .

Sarah Rashley

EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

We have welcomed members old and new, as well as visitors to the club, since January. It is a pleasure to see so many attending our meetings.

The programme for the next few months is as follows:

- Thursday 13 April** An all-year round Garden – David and Pauline Wright. David and Pauline are club members and experienced gardeners. They made a beautiful garden near Chard, 'Lift the Latch', which they opened under the National Gardens Scheme. They have since moved into the Parish and we have been very pleased to welcome them as members of our club.
- Thursday 11 May** Growing your own – Gold Club speaker.
- Thursday 8 June** Hedgehogs – Laura Batt. How we can help to save them. Hedgehog awareness. How to encourage hedgehogs into your garden and what can be done to stop their decline.
- Thursday 13 July** "Out Meeting" for Club members only.
- Thursday 10 August** Ascension Island – 'A drop in the ocean?' – Martin Young

We try to provide a varied programme during the year. We are always happy to welcome visitors and new members; whether you are interested in gardening or would just like to join a group of friendly, sociable people. The Propagator, a free newsletter containing club news, notes of gardening events, tips, etc is distributed via email, with hard copies available at each meeting for those not on email. During the growing season, there is a produce stall, stocked by members with plants and produce.

Vouchers offering discounts on seeds, seed potatoes, young plants and seedlings are available during January and February, with offers on spring bulbs and overwintering onions and shallots come summer. Bulk order discounts are available to members during January, with special order forms for sundry goods, such as compost.

Twice a year, there is a growing competition; fuchsia plug plants were distributed to members at the March meeting for growing on, to be judged at a meeting later this summer. Day trips are arranged to places of interest.

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 currently £20, with subs of £2 per meeting. Visitors £5. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, commencing at 7.30pm in East Coker Hall, Halves Lane, East Coker unless otherwise indicated.

For further information, please contact Helen Styles 01935 862447. There is a page on the East Coker Hall website for the Gardening Club. If you have access to the web, go to <http://eastcokervillagehall.co.uk/> and look at the Gardening Club page.

In the meantime, if you wish to speak to us, please phone me 01935 862447 or Stan Shayler 01935 420291.

Helen

EAST COKER HALL

One of the largest in the area, with excellent facilities and parking, the Hall is used by many groups, organisations and individuals both from within the parish of East Coker and the surrounding area for a wide variety of purposes – badminton, club meetings, quiz nights, parties, plays, pantomimes, film nights, fund raising events, the annual flower and produce show, keep fit, yoga, Pilates, art classes, to list just a few....But! - how much do you know about the Hall?

The old village hall is now a residence, "North Coker Hall", situated by The Triangle. It belonged to the Maudsley family. When Mrs Maudsley died in 1977 the executors of her estate wished to dispose of the Hall. As a result, a joint committee was formed, a public meeting held in the school hall and options considered. There were two options available:

- 1) purchase the existing hall and improve it;
- 2) build a new hall on land at Halves Lane offered by the Drake family.

In the end, there was not much difference between the costs of each option and the decision was made to form a committee with the objectives of raising money and investigating the design of a new hall to be built on the land donated by the Drake family. Thanks to the generosity of the Drake family, the hard work and efforts of the original committee members and the commitment of parishioners, the hall was officially opened in 1981 and we now enjoy the benefits offered by our Village Hall.

The East Coker Hall is a registered Charitable Trust, run by a committee, all members of which are trustees. Over the years, various challenges have been thrown at them – the heating system was a problem for many years; pipes running under the floor have leaked several times; the main hall flooring has had to be replaced; heating oil has been stolen resulting in parts of the carpark having to be dug up. Add to this the continuous, seemingly never-ending list of maintenance jobs and the committee members are kept fully occupied. We are now faced with having to carry out substantial work to the roof of the hall, the cost of which will be well in excess of £120k, depending on the outcome of a further structural survey which will take place on Friday 21 April, when the Hall will be closed for the day, but should reopen for the evening. Once carried out, the work will result in a Hall fit for use for many more years.

If you feel that you could contribute to running this valuable village amenity, and would be happy to act as a trustee, we would be pleased to hear from you. Trustees are expected to take their duties seriously, to act in the best interests of the charitable trust, which take precedence over any other interests they may have, and to take an active role in the running of the Hall. All trustees are volunteers and should be prepared to give time and energy to the daily running of a community facility. If you are interested, please make contact via the Hall email address echbookings@btinternet.com.

The Hall has a website www.eastcokervillagehall.co.uk where information about the facilities available, hire charges, how to book and other useful facts may be found. We very much hope that the parishioners and users of the Hall will continue to use and support it, particularly in view of the substantial work now required.

Notice of AGM

The AGM of the East Coker Hall Charitable Trust will take place on Monday 22 May 2023 commencing at 7.30pm, in the Dampier Room of East Coker Hall. Parishioners aged over 18 may attend the meeting.

Helen

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in East Coker





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To book a treatment or for more information
contact Sarah:
07583 039744
sarahnewdigate@gmail.com
www.sarahnewdigatemasage.com



FILM NIGHT AT EAST COKER HALL – WEDNESDAY 26 APRIL.

Doors open at 7.00pm. The film starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £7. No booking is necessary.

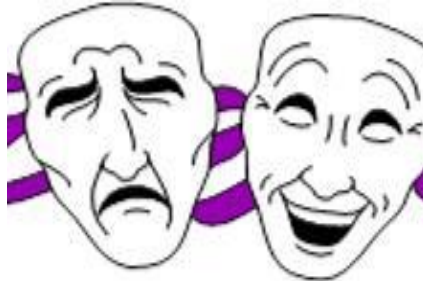
The film showing in April is Bill Nighy's latest – 'Living'. Set in 1953 London, it depicts a bureaucrat in the County Public Works department (played by Bill Nighy) facing a fatal illness.

The film has received positive reviews, with Nighy's performance receiving particular acclaim. At the last Academy Awards night, Bill Nighy was nominated for best actor and the film was nominated for Best Adapted Screenplay, which was written by the Nobel Prize winning author Kazuo Ishiguro.

This winter's film nights will end with this film, but hopefully they will start again in the autumn. It depends on your support, so we look forward to seeing you there. Everyone is very welcome.

Tea and coffee are served before the film.

Gill



East Coker Players

East Coker's very own Amateur Dramatic Group are back again with another great variety show

The July Show An Evening with the East Coker Players

The Show will be on the evenings of 7th and 8th July at 7.30pm

Tickets will be available soon at £5 per person.

We are also looking for local people who would like to either tread the boards or work behind-scenes in future productions, particularly our November Panto.

If you would like to come and meet us and hopefully join our happy band, then let me know by message or call me for more information.

Many thanks
Richard Gracie
07899 847261

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH

A Special Cheese and Wine Evening featuring the Yeovilton Military Wives Choir will be held on Friday 14 April in East Coker Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets are £12 (including a glass of wine) and can be obtained from Marilyn Smith 863944, Jill Holland 862782 or Jude Petheram 863531. Doors open at 7.00pm. Please join us for an evening of song and good food.

Our Branch President, David Holland presented a cheque recently for £2,000 to the Dunkirk Memorial House in Bishops Lydeard. The home provides support for the armed forces community, specialising in cancer care, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's Disease and Stroke care. It also has a separate Dementia Care Unit.

Later, David presented a cheque for £1,000 to the RBL Somerset Community Support fund which helps ex and serving members of the armed services and their families who happen to be struggling with the cost of living. The fund spent over £200,000 on welfare cases in Somerset during 2021/22. The Legion's national figure was £9.5m.

On behalf of the branch committee, may I offer our thanks, this wouldn't be possible without your generous support and donations at our fundraising events."

Thanks for your help,

Dave Giles, Branch Chair

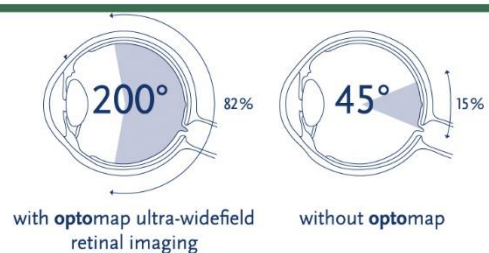


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THURSDAY BADMINTON

A friendly group of both mixed abilities and gender welcome any new members, we meet each Thursday afternoon from 2.15pm – 3.15pm at East Coker Hall.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Joyce Pryor, tel 862816.

EAST COKER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We meet at East Coker Hall on the last Thursday of the month at 7.30pm, except for special occasions. We find interesting speakers to both educate and amuse our members. In April, we have arranged for light-hearted talks by two of our WI advisors. They have agreed to enlighten us on the ups and downs of being an advisor and also when one of them had a very interesting time meeting Bradley Walsh. In May, we are holding a recipe evening when members are invited to bake their favourite recipe and bring it to the meeting for the others to sample and judge.

This year, for our birthday outing, we are hiring a coach for an outing to the Donkey Sanctuary at Sidmouth on 29 June. There is a café on site so packed lunches are not required. This will be offered to partners and villagers so that we can ensure a full coach to offset the coach hire. Anyone interested please contact the Secretary for further information.

In July, we are being introduced to the art of paper cutting, involving very intricate designs which were practised in centuries gone by.

Whist Evenings are being held at 7.00pm on the third Thursday of the month in the Dampier Room of East Coker Hall. All welcome.

Stop press

By popular request, we are repeating the Bingo Night. This will be held at the East Coker Hall on Saturday 15 April. Doors open 7.00pm. Free entry, £5 per booklet (cash only). There will be good prizes and refreshments at the interval.

Any further information about the Women's Institute, please contact Secretary Pauline Gubbins, tel 864430.

Diary dates

Saturday 15 April	Bingo	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 20 April	Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 27 April	Light-hearted Talk	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 18 May	Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 25 May	Recipe evening	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 29 June	Visit Donkey Sanctuary	9.00am	East Coker Hall

Joyce Pryor

BRING GIRLGUIDING BACK TO WEST COKER

Yeovil Division Girlguiding commissioners would like to establish the degree of interest in Girlguiding in West Coker and the surrounding villages, prior to considering whether to pursue reopening Rainbow, Brownie, or Guide units at the new Jubilee Hall in West Coker.

If you have daughters in the age ranges of 4-7yrs Rainbows, 7-10yrs Brownies, or 10-14yrs Guides, who are interested in joining such a unit, please contact the Commissioners via the contact email westcoker@girlguidingsomerset.org.uk. This email address will go straight through to the Yeovil Division Girlguiding Commissioners, and they will respond to you directly.

They are also interested to hear of girls of 14yrs and above who may be interested in helping as a young leader at a West Coker Unit, and from adults who might be interested in helping at or training to help run one of the units, and to their establish their availability. (Please contact the Commissioners on the same email address as above.

Girlguiding is a wonderful organisation, and helping in a unit is a great way to get involved in the community, make good friends, work with young people, and have lots of fun. Provided the venue is available, Flexible guiding allows times, days and length of sessions to be organised to accommodate leaders/and helpers as well as the girls.

It would be wonderful to have Girlguiding units back in West Coker, especially now the new Jubilee Hall is finished and opened, so here's hoping lots of interest is forthcoming.

Jane LeFeuvre



ART CLASSES

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and painting together. You'll learn techniques to
inspire you and create beautiful artworks, whilst
experimenting with new materials.
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SPRING TERMS BEGIN:

SATURDAY 15TH APRIL - 10:00 - 12:00

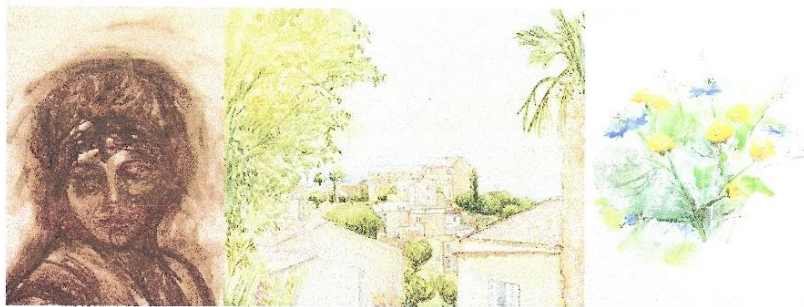
WEDNESDAY 19TH APRIL - 13:30 - 15:30

TUESDAY 25TH APRIL - 13:15 - 15:15

£175 FOR A 10 WEEK COURSE

EAST COKER VILLAGE HALL

Book early to avoid disappointment. Places limited.
To book your place please contact Ellie Farr 07745216811 or at
enquiries@eleanorfarr.gallery



EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

All meetings at the Village Café, East Coker - 7.30pm start.

Tuesday 25 April two Local Poets plus an Open Meeting

- Readings by Maya Pieris and Steve Beer, followed after the break by an open session where anyone can come and read a poem they have written or enjoyed.
- There is no theme for the open session, just any poem that you feel will interest the group. Or just come and listen and have a drink or cake and enjoy the poetry.

Tuesday 30 May James Crowden – Literary Somerset

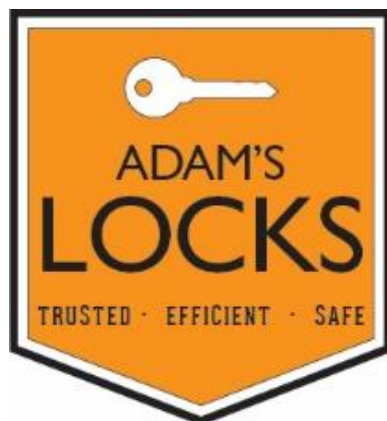
- An illustrated talk by author James Crowden, who is always informative and entertaining. And of course, East Coker's strong literary links will no doubt feature.

Poetry group website <http://www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk>

Email info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk

Best wishes

David



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Young People

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

All our sections have had a busy start to this year and are planning ahead for our District camps.

A Scout Patrol spent a weekend backwoods camping at Lufton where they slept under a tarpaulin rather than in a tent. They learnt survival skills including safe use of an axe, preparing meals from basic ingredients and fire lighting with flint and steel (no matches).

The Scouts also did a District Day Hike in February starting at Trent and covering 8 miles of beautiful countryside after a Friday night walk around the footpaths of the village without using torches. The Beavers have been working towards their Skill and World Challenge badges, undertook their Space Activity Badge and had an outdoor games night in the dark. Several beavers moved up to cubs at the end of March.

The Cubs held a Bingo Night, have made bird feeders for their Gardener Badge and have worked on their Digital Maker Activity Badge. As he moves on, thank you to Rocky / Matt for five fantastic years helping our Cubs have an amazing time.

Our Stag Explorers have been making crazy golf courses out of cardboard.

The Scouts are preparing for the Fox Trophy competition hike that they will attend in April. We have been working on lightweight meals, hiking snacks and rucksacks.



Our three Scouts, Faye, Charlie and Emily, who have been selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea next year, continue with their fundraising events to raise £4,150 each.

They had a further preparation weekend back in February where they are learning the skills for their trip. Their WSJ uniform is due to arrive soon.

They now have a flight date – 27 July – for a direct flight to Seoul. They will have three days there before travelling on to the campsite. Whilst in Seoul, they will all visit the Demilitarised Zone between North & South Korea and spend a day sightseeing.



Faye and Charlie are working towards their Young Leader Award. Their last two training modules are planned for April and July.

Our Jumble Sale was an amazing day. After a Covid-induced gap, everyone seemed to have been keeping stuff for us. We raised £1,500. Thank you to everyone who provided us with items for sale.

Thank you for all your support.

David Webber, Group Scout Leader
eastcokerscouts@gmail.com

17th Annual East Coker Village Quiz

It was wonderful to see 20 teams in the East Coker Hall ready to search their memories and puzzle their way through 8 rounds of questions and 3 tabletop marathons.

At the fish & chip break, two teams were tied in first place, one in second, and three were tied for third. It was all very close.



At the end, the winners by half a point were the 'West Street Register Gang', ahead of The Cheese and The Poetry Group.

The coveted crème eggs were taken home by the Try Hards.

Once again, we thank everyone who supported the event and who helped behind the scenes. You all make the evening the success that it is. The quiz supports the Scouts and goes towards replacing equipment – we have already purchased a new hike tent and a tarpaulin for using at backwoods camps.

Date for your diary the next Quiz will be **Saturday 16 March 2024** - the 18th Annual East Coker Village Quiz. The Quiz will start at 7.00pm (half an hour earlier). More details to follow closer to the time.

The Quiz Gopher eastcokerscouts@gmail.com

EAST COKER PLAYGROUP (follow us on Facebook: East Coker Preschool)

Spring term is nearly over, and the flowering daffodils are brightening up even the most windy, wet and overcast spring days. The children are noticing the changes in the garden, the willow den has more leaves each day, the backyard fruit trees are starting to show buds and the wooden planter has been renovated and strawberry plants replanted. We just need to wait patiently for the flowers and the strawberries, raspberries, apples, cherries and pears later in the year. The children have chosen to sow a variety of flower and vegetable seeds, the garden will be bursting with colour and taste! All this fun, whilst learning, developing, keeping healthy and active.

We have signed up to do the Physical Audit with SASP (Somerset Activity Sports Partnership), a brilliant opportunity to review and assess how preschool can enhance our physical activity. Just writing about the garden brings into focus how active we already are in the outside space.

Other ways children (and adults) have been active include: having great fun tossing pancakes in the garden on Shrove Tuesday and using the balance bikes/trikes/scooters and ride-ons to race up and down the tarmac paths outside the Pavilion. At the end of term, we are inviting our families in to hunt for eggs, and the children are being artistic and crafty, decorating an egg.

All support is gratefully received, the playgroup is a charity, and all fundraising is essential. Fundraising will enable the Playgroup to maintain and replace the resources that support the children's learning and development. Thanks to the fundraising, we have renovated the garden planter, purchased vegetable and flower seeds and drawing resources (we have a very keen cohort of mark makers).

You can fundraise for East Coker Preschool by using Easy Fundraising <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> If you do online shopping, sign up, please choose East Coker Preschool as your cause, download the **EasyFundraising app** to your smartphone or download the browser extension. When you shop online,

check if going to a company website via EasyFundraising will generate a donation to our Preschool when you spend. A lot of little pennies add up.

In 2023, the Playgroup will have been at the Pavilion site for 50 years! Celebrations will include an event at the Pavilion on Saturday 10 June, more information in the next East Coker Society Newsletter and on our Facebook, East Coker Preschool.

Children can join us from the age of 2 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	8.00-9.00	12.00-1.00	3.00-4.00
Tuesday	8.00-9.00	12.00-1.00	3.00-4.00
Wednesday	8.00-9.00	12.00-1.00	3.00-4.00
Thursday	8.00-9.00	12.00-1.00	3.00-4.00
Friday	8.00-9.00	12.00-1.00	3.00-4.00

Children staying for lunch need to bring a packed lunch.

Baby and Toddler Session @ East Coker Playgroup - Thursday 9.30am - 11.00am, £1.50/family.

We have a playroom full of resources and outdoor space to facilitate playing and learning. Pop along and join us for play and chat.

To find out more information, please visit our Facebook page, East Coker Preschool.

For more information and to register your child/children for East Coker Playgroup, please contact us 07503 751133 or email office.ecplaygroup@gmail.com

EAST COKER PRIMARY SCHOOL



Respect, Determination & Courage, Compassion & Collaboration, Independence & Creativity

As we approach our Easter break and look forward to the summer term, I cannot help but hope for a huge improvement in our weather! This term it has been very dull, very wet and at times, very cold. Thankfully, that has not hindered the many events we have held over the past several months.

Throughout January, some of our children were lucky enough to work with OSR projects in West Coker who held workshops teaching our children how to work with clay, which was then put through their kiln. You can see the exceptional quality of their work on our school website on the gallery page which you can find [here](https://www.eastcokerschool.co.uk/gallery/), or at <https://www.eastcokerschool.co.uk/gallery/>

This term, we have had several charity and fundraising events and awareness days. We have had NSPCC Numbers Day as well as a very successful Comic Relief event. For Comic Relief, the children did a sponsored run around East Coker Pavilion, and there was a Great Coker Bake-Off competition after school selling lots and lots of cakes. The school community raised a considerable amount of money – thank you if you supported this event. The children also celebrated World Book Day and came to school dressed up as book characters for the day. They had a parade around the school playground, and throughout the week we held a Book Fair which raised money for our Year 6 librarians to spend on the infant library section.

We have also held a Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. Raising children's awareness of their wellbeing and developing their resilience is a huge challenge at the moment and we are seeing more and more children needing that little bit extra TLC. We are lucky to have two staff (ELSA's) who are specially trained to support children with their wellbeing. In addition to this, we will also be taking part in the Mental Health and Wellbeing Programme in the summer term, which will provide training for all staff and a high-quality programme of support for children.

As well as having a very busy time supporting our teaching and learning events, the PTFA have also been busy this term running a Silly Disco at East Coker Hall. The money the PTFA raises enables the school to provide improvements for our children. This term, the PTFA have purchased a Viking Longboat for the school.

Our Year 5's have had a one day residential to the Magdalene Project, albeit a very muddy one. They had a lovely time and were exceptionally well behaved and well mannered.

This term, the whole school theme has been 'Inventors'. The children have been making focaccia bread, toy buggies, William Morris prints, Starry Night inspired landscapes and learning about toys from the past and The British Empire. In geography, the infants have been focusing on hot and cold places – I think we would all wish to be somewhere warm/dry at the moment!

After Easter, we have a few projects and events planned. Our whole school theme is 'Picture This'. We are very excited to be focusing on Art & Design which will include a school community arts project in June. We hope to hold an interactive art open afternoon for our families.

Also, after Easter we will be starting our Learning Through Play project. The school council have worked with staff to create more effective and engaging lunchtime activities. They have established zones which include wheel area, theatre/stage area, chill out area, art area and of course, a Viking Longboat area. We will also be developing an area for den building, mud kitchens and construction and building. Our Forest School area is also up for some improvements after its recent expansion.

We are always looking for helpers to hear our children read, support with cooking and art projects as well as come in and talk or read to the children or in an admin capacity. Please do contact the school if you are interested in supporting in any way.

Have a good Easter break.

The PTFA event of the year: Summer Fair on Friday 30 June from 6pm – please do come and join us!

J Hesketh-Williams, Head Teacher

Fitness With Rachel Cozens



Monday - Commemoration Hall

West Coker

Salsa Fit - 6pm-6:55pm £6

Pilates 7:05pm-8pm £8

Tuesday - Pavilion

West Coker

Low Impact Aerobics / Stretch - 2:30pm-3:30pm £6

Thursday - Pavilion

West Coker

Pilates 2pm-2:55pm £8

Reduce the risk of falls class - 3:05pm-4pm £6

-cup of tea & social after class -

Tel: 07855433453

Email: rachelcozens@cheerful.com

The Churches

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

As you read your village Newsletter, it will be hopefully more springlike, and we will be anticipating the joy of Easter. As this is written, we are in the midst of Lent, with Ash Wednesday past; not the easiest time for our Churches as we remember the temptations of Jesus by the Devil in the Wilderness and look towards the Cross and his death. Some will have been abstaining from sweet foods and wines; some have been studying the Archbishop of Canterbury's suggested Lenten Reading, which has the unappealing title of "Failure". This may not be so strange when we think that Jesus' life must have seen a complete failure to those who knew and followed him until, three days later, His Resurrection, the empty tomb and his re-appearance - **alive!**

Much to celebrate on Easter Sunday, when the gloom of Lent will be replaced by a glorious display of spring flowers in the church, arranged by a talented band of village florists, for all to come and enjoy. These are extraordinary events, difficult sometimes to understand the full meaning of them.

If you wish to discover more, you may wish to join a "discovery/study" group in the Parish. Please contact our Rector.

The usual pattern of our Services continues unchanged at St Michael's:

- 1st Sunday of month** - No service but 11 00am Family Service, East Coker Christian Fellowship, East Coker Hall.
- 2nd Sunday** - 11 00am - Morning Prayer - Lay Led with hymns and a short talk.
- 3rd Sunday** - 6 00pm – Evensong - Book of Common Prayer.
- 4th Sunday** – 11.00am - Holy Communion.

When there is a 5th Sunday in the month, a 10.00am Holy Communion Service is held, by rotation at one of the Seven Churches in the Benefice.

For details of all Services across the Benefice, please read St Michael's noticeboard in the Paddock or read the weekly Pew Sheet which is available from christine2vince@btinternet.com.

Special Easter Services

- Maundy Thursday** 6 April - Holy Communion - 7.30pm
- Good Friday** 7 April - Prayers at the Foot of the Cross at Hardington Church – 2.00pm
- Easter Sunday** 9 April - Morning Prayer - 11 00am

All welcome!

Still to come will be our celebrations for the Coronation of King Charles III on 6 May 2023.

Ministry Team Contacts - available to all who may need pastoral care.

The Rev'd Colin Simpson, email- rectorcokerridge@gmail.com, tel 01935 862429, The Rectory, 7 Cedar Fields. West Coker, BA22 9DB www.CokerRidge.org.uk.

Office Hours – Wednesday and Friday - 10 00am -1 00pm

Barbs Hampshire email- officecokerridge@gmail.com

Office hours Wed 9.30 am – 4.00pm Tel 01935 864574

Prize Draw Church Survey

Win a £100 voucher for Sunday Lunch at the Helyar Arms (kindly donated by Patrick and Claire).

Project Beacon aims to make improvements to East Coker Church St Michael and All Angels'. We want to make changes that have a positive impact on the whole community and want your input, so we are running a village-wide survey.

Whilst St Michael's is first and foremost a place of worship it is also a community space and is central to the heritage and history of East Coker. So regardless of your personal beliefs (or lack of) or your church going habits (or lack of), your opinion matters to us. If you fill in and return a survey, you will be entered into a prize draw with the chance to win a fabulous £100 gift voucher for Sunday Lunch at the Helyar Arms (less those surveys returned anonymously). The winner will be drawn on 6 May, Coronation Day.

To save paper you can fill in the survey online. Find it by following this link <https://forms.office.com/r/dfkmxR9bXN> - or scanning the QR code below. If you don't have access to the internet, paper copies of the survey with drop off boxes can be found in the pub, in the café, or in the church.

One entry per person only please. Open to anyone 12 years and older.



THE CHAPEL AT EAST COKER HALL

Easter Weekend

- **Good Friday** - Family Worship Service - 2.30pm.
- **Sunday Morning**- 9.00am-11.00am - Children's Annual Easter Trail starting from East Coker Hall. Everyone is welcome to join us after the trail for our 'pop up' Easter service at 11.00am.

We meet at East Coker Hall, 11.00am on Sunday mornings. We are always happy to welcome anyone to join us, even if just to see what goes on!

Our services are very relaxed and informal and always followed by tea and coffee. We have a variety of speakers, our own worship band, and a large number of children of all ages in the 'Kids Church'.

Café Church is held on the first Sunday of each month; fresh coffee, croissants, and bacon rolls are provided, and we have an even more informal time.

On Tuesday mornings in term-time, the Toddler Group runs from 10.30am – 12.00pm. This is aimed at mums, dads, grandparents, and child carers and incorporates a café area as well as plenty of play space and equipment.

Contact us on 863735 or via our website www.eastcokerchapel.com where you will find our email address and the mobile numbers of our leadership team and more information about our church.

Joe Dunning

Village News

ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

We will be doing our local 'Cream Tea in a Box' delivery this year on Thursday 29 June. If you would like a delicious individual Cream Tea, including two scones, jam, clotted cream, tea bag and a pot of strawberries delivered to your door, we will be taking orders from the beginning of May.

Further details from me janedonnelly81@outlook.com or tel 01935 478409.

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GOOSE SLADE FARM SHOP

Wishing all our customers a Happy Easter!

This year, the Dunning family celebrate 100 years of farming in East Coker and the 20th Anniversary of the Farm Shop.

As always, our fresh meat counter is stocked with our own home-grown beef, lamb, pork, and goose products.

The free-range chicken and duck are from Cracknell's poultry at Langport.

Our butchers are always available and more than happy to help with off counter meat cuts, special orders, and cooking advice, please ask if you need assistance.

We also stock everything you would expect to find in a farm shop. We look forward to serving you soon.

Shop opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10.00am – 5.00pm, www.thegoosefarm.com tel 01935 863735.

Please note - Closed Good Friday, 7 April.

Liz & Phil

MOBILE LIBRARY

The Mobile Library visits East Coker on Tuesdays every 4 weeks from 11.50am – 12.10pm outside the Helyar Arms. There is a wide selection of books – fiction, non-fiction, large print, DVDs and audio books for adults and children. You can borrow up to 20 items. The stock is regularly refreshed, and you can order books there or online.

To use the service, you must be a member of Somerset Libraries, so remember to bring your membership card. You can join by filling in a membership form with proof of your name and current address, for example., Utility Bill or a driving licence. Do use this valuable service.

The next visits are **4 April** **2 May** **27 June**

For information about this service, contact Somerset Direct, tel 0300 1232224 or visit www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries



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EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council would like to welcome new Councillor Clive Wakely, who joined the team in March, and very much look forward to working with him.

We do still have one Councillor vacancy. If you feel that you could spare a few hours each month, please contact the Clerk, Jude on Clerk@eastcokerparish.com.

Village signage

We know it has taken longer than anticipated, but we are hoping that the first two stones will be ready to be placed by the middle of April, so keep a look out.

Enjoying our Countryside

The lambing season is in full swing. 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. So please keep your dogs on the lead in or around fields where sheep are grazing.

Footpaths

Can we also remind people to keep to the designate footpaths? If you are unsure of paths in the area, please visit the East Coker Parish Council Website <https://eastcokerparish.com/>, where maps can be downloaded.

Village Ranger

Our ranger, Karen, visits the village every Tuesday. Please contact Cllr B Sugg, 07907 621106 (no calls after 5.00pm or at the weekend please) if you see any jobs which need her attention.

Clerk@eastcokerparish.com

MONICA'S MEMORIES

I came to Yeovil to work in October 1964 as the first Lady Almoner at the hospitals in the Yeovil Hospital Group, that is, Yeovil Hospital, Summerlands Hospital, Balidon Maternity Unit, Fiveways Maternity Unit, Crewkeme Hospital, South Petherton Hospital, Wincanton Memorial and Verrington Hospitals, and Templecombe Maternity Hospital. Three months later, my title was changed to Medical Social Worker, but my job remained the same - to alleviate any problem caused or aggravated by illness. That covered many aspects of life, from basic practical problems, helping people come to terms with disability and later investigating child and domestic abuse, just a brief summary!

What strikes me now is how things have changed. People may complain about Yeovil Hospital but what was it like in 1964? My memories come flooding back. Yeovil had under 100 beds divided between a men's ward, a female ward and a children's ward, with a small private wing with 4 or 5 beds.

That meant that whatever you had wrong, you went into the one ward. So, for example, the women's ward might have patients having emergency surgery for appendicitis, repair of fractures (hip replacements had not been invented then), pneumonia, perhaps an overdose. Even if you were pregnant and needed surgical intervention, you were transferred to Yeovil Hospital as none of the maternity units had theatres and your baby was cared for in the children's ward. I remember the consternation when a patient needed a life support machine that was also in the main ward.

The men's ward was also similar, except there was usually a corner with a few sporting injuries suffered by young men! The children's ward had a few isolation rooms to take infectious illnesses.

The theatre's one and only door opened straight onto to the main corridor opposite the lift shaft so all could see inside. I never saw any blood or gore! Outpatients department was in a single storey hut, and casualty X rays were part of that unit - but the Path Lab was in another building.

My office was in Summerlands Hospital, but I did have a hook in outpatients for my coat and lunch was in a small dining room with about five tables for all staff (except medical staff, who ate elsewhere).

Working conditions were difficult. The orthopaedic surgeon had one theatre session a week, starting at 2pm, and often went on until 10pm, but he was usually at South Petherton Hospital the next day by 8am, and sometimes at 6am! Casualty was often covered by senior staff; on one occasion, the consultant physician was faced with taking a splinter out of a patient's hand, much to the amusement of staff.

Life is very different now. Life was hard in those days, and I for one would not want to go back to what some people term 'The Good Old Days'.

Monica

OD ARTS FESTIVAL 26-28 May 2023

Od Arts Festival returns, from **26 to 28 May**, with a packed programme of art and community activity! The festival takes its name from the Od: a crooked stream that meanders through the neighbouring villages of East and West Coker. Led by Coker-based **OSR Projects**, Od Arts Festival 2023 – *Still & still moving*, takes its title from T.S Eliot's poem *East Coker*, the second of his famous Four Quartets

*...Love is most nearly itself
When here and now cease to matter.
Old men ought to be explorers
Here or there does not matter
We must be still and still moving
Into another intensity
For a further union, a deeper communion*

From sunken lanes and smugglers paths to the virtual landscapes of computer-generated worlds, *Still and still moving* will explore responses to human movement through space, both real and imagined. It will offer visitors an exciting range of things to see, do and experience, from walking and way marking inspired by ancient histories, to digital projections of imagined futures.

Expect intriguing works in unusual locations across the two villages, providing an opportunity to meander and explore at your own pace. Artist **Macia Teusink** has been co-commissioned by the Festival and **Dawe's Twineworks** to delve into some of the historical connections that span out from the Coker Canvas Industries. A community clay project, inspired by the work of **Sara Trillo**, is already underway – producing tiny talismans for travel. Further plans for workshops and events, including circle monument making, bookbinding and a communal lunch during the festival and more artists will be announced in the coming weeks.

The festival is free and open to all, so come along, walk with us, stray off the path and discover new ways to think about the journeys we make.

www.odartsfestival.co.uk @odartsfest



Volunteer at Od Arts Festival

Would you like to be part of an exciting programme of exhibitions, events and workshops, share your knowledge, learn new skills, challenge yourself and make new friends?

Od Arts Festival will be taking place from **26 -28 May 2023** in venues across West and East Coker. We're looking to fill a number of roles including exhibition stewards, local guides and artist assistants.

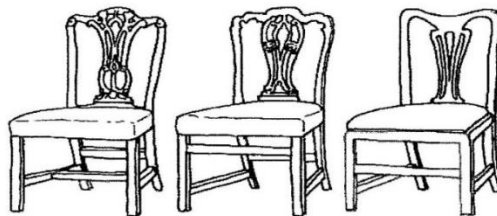
All volunteers will have the opportunity to welcome visitors, facilitate interesting conversations throughout the festival and learn more about contemporary art. Training will include an introduction to the exhibitions and its artists, delivered by festival curators Simon Lee Dicker, (Artist/OSR Projects Director) and Cat Bagg (Curator). FREE festival T shirt and lunch will be provided.

Please contact Chantelle at info@odartsfestival.co.uk or call 01935 862201 for an informal chat about how you can get involved.

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Tues 4 April	Mobile Library	11.50am – 12.10pm	Helyar Arms
Wed 5 April	Wine Circle – Tasting of Spanish Wines	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 6 April	Maundy Thursday - Holy Communion	7.30pm	St Michael's
Good Friday	Good Friday Prayer	2.00pm	Hardington Church
Easter Sunday	Morning Prayer	11.00am	St Michael's
Thurs 13 April	Gardening Club – An all-year round Garden	7.00pm - 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 14 April	RBL – Cheese & Wine Evening – Yeovilton Military Wives Choir	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 15 April	WI - Bingo	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 20 April	WI – Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 25 April	Poetry Group – Two local poets & AGM	7.00pm	Village Café
Wed 26 April	Film Night – 'Living' - starring Bill Nighy	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 27 April	WI – Light-hearted Talk	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 2 May	Mobile Library	11.50am – 12.10pm	Helyar Arms
Wed 3 May	Wine Circle – Cider & Montgomery Cheese	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 6 May	Coronation of King Charles III		
Mon 8 May	Bank Holiday for the coronation of King Charles III		
Wed 11 May	Gardening Club – Grow Your Own	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 18 May	WI – Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 20 May	East Coker Gardening Club plant swap/sale. Refreshments available.	10am - 12 noon	East Coker Hall
Mon 22 May	East Coker Hall Charitable Trust AGM	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 25 May	WI – Recipe Evening	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 26 – Sun 28 May	Od Arts Festival – Free and open to all		
Tues 30 May	Poetry Group	7.00pm	Village Café
Wed 7 June	Wine Circle – AGM & Mystery tasting	8.00	East Coker Hall
Thurs 8 June	Gardening Club – Hedgehogs	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 27 June	Mobile Library	11.50am – 12.10pm	Helyar Arms
Thurs 29 June	WI – Visit by coach to Donkey Sanctuary	9.00am	East Coker Hall
Thurs 29 June	Action Medical Research – Cream Teas in a Box		
Fri 30 June	East Coker School – PTFA Summer Fayre	6.00pm	EC Primary School
Fri 7 & Sat 8 July	An Evening with The Players	7.30pm	East Coker Hall

Art Classes Spring term, see page 7:

Beginning Sat 15 April	10.00am – 12.00pm	East Coker Hall
Beginning Wed 19 April	1.30pm – 3.30pm	East Coker Hall
Beginning Tues 25 April	1.15pm – 3.15pm	East Coker Hall