

# East Coker Society Newsletter



JANUARY 2010

Free Issue No 137

**Happy New Year to you all!**

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## East Coker Society News

### MAKE THIS YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION!

#### Distribution of the newsletter by e-mail

At the Society's recent AGM the current extremely low number of residents who opt to receive the Newsletter by this means was discussed and the Committee felt it opportune to ask again for those villagers with computers to advise Lesley Lindsay of their e-mail address in order that the considerable cost of printing hard copies can be substantially reduced. It will also ease the occasional difficulties over manual distribution which arise through illness and holidays etc.

We have roughly 800 households in the village yet only 158 have taken up the e-mail option. In asking for villagers co-operation it is stressed that:-

- a) Individuals' e-mail addresses are secure and will not be disclosed to any other party.
- b) All villagers who wish to continue to receive hard copies of the Newsletter can continue to enjoy this option.
- c) Please remember many e-mail recipients do not print the whole document but only the pages that interest them, particularly the all important calendar of events.

### THE EAST COKER BAG

The new East Coker Bag is a '**must-have**' item if you live in East Coker! The cotton shopper is available with either long or short handles, and has the East Coker Cockerel on one side. Environmentally friendly, and good for the 'green' consumer! Available from The Store, East Coker, or Sarah Owen 862218

### VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY 2010

The 2010 Diary is now at The Store, East Coker, and can be found at the back of the shop on the bottom shelf near the stationery. **Please could village organisations put their forthcoming events in the Diary to avoid the dates clashing.** Thank you.

## Village Clubs and Organisations

### THURSDAY BADMINTON

New members are welcome to join us on Thursday afternoons during term time. We meet at the East Coker Village Hall from 2.15 – 3.15pm which is ideal timing for those who have children at school. Both beginners and intermediate players are welcomed as we treat the afternoon as fun and exercise.

For further information please contact either Joyce Pryor 862816 or Hebe Bowes 863884

## **THE COKER 400 CLUB**

The winners of the Autumn draw: £100 Mrs J Swain; £50 Mrs J Darling; £40 Mr D Pryor; £30 Mr R Parris; £20 Mr A Rees; £15 Mrs A Mead; £10 Mrs K McIver; £10 Mr & Mrs J Cooper.

The Winter Draw: £100 Mrs S Snelling; £100 Mr D Leng; £50 Mrs P Marpole; £50 Mrs B Chatwin; £40 Mr R Chatwin; £30 Viscountess Montgomery; £20 Ms SW Graham; £15 Ms S Owen; £10 Mr R Mainprize; £10 Lady Vickers.

The 400 Club are pleased to send cheques for £600 to All Saints' Church, Sutton Bingham for the roof fund and £400 to the East Coker Scout Group.

Any new members will be welcome at the cost of £20 a year by quarterly payments of £5. Enquiries to Mike Weston 862472, Gloria Mead 862364, Mary Ashley 862263, Arthur Rees 862828

## **EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

On behalf of the branch, I thank the village and surrounding parishes for their continued support. We are blessed in having such a caring and understanding community. You have once again donated generously to the Poppy Appeal. Our house-to-house, static and church collections amounted to £5737.02. With further donations the total will be £6,000. A truly magnificent sum, considering our branch area population is only 5,500. Thank you to all collectors and to the shops, pubs etc, where static boxes are situated.

Sadly our Poppy Appeal Organiser (PAO) – Sue Hounsell is retiring this year. Sue has been running the appeal from Bridport for a number of years and despite all the help from husband Barry and her 'village teams' as she calls them trying to do the job from distance has been very difficult. I'm sure you all join me in thanking Sue for her dedication over the years and wish her well for the future. She will remain a member of our branch and I understand Bridport has a new Poppy Appeal collector! We are now searching for a replacement PAO. It does not take up a lot of time and the end result is very fulfilling. If you feel you could take on this role, please contact Marilyn Smith or David Holland.

Remembrance Sunday Church Service. St Michael's was full. It was good to see so many RBL members on parade. Plus an honour for Harry Snook one of our oldest members laying the wreath. It was encouraging to see so many Scouts and Cubs in attendance. Thank-you to the Flag bearers and readers. Thanks also to bugler Derek Smith and all others who assisted in the service, including our village correspondent, David Pryor who was responsible for getting us into the Western Gazette. The collection amounted to £647.25. Sincere appreciation to all who gave so generously.

A note for diaries: Friday 23 April 2010, 7.30pm Cheese & Wine Evening.

Chairman: David Holland 852782 Secretary: Marilyn Smith 863944

## **EAST COKER SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB**

In the last three months we have been pleased to welcome new members into the Club who are new to bowling and with tuition are now progressing very well. We meet twice a week on Tuesday evenings and Friday afternoons in East Coker Village Hall. If anyone else would like to try bowling you can contact George on 864222 or Tony on 864174.

A bowling tournament was held in November with invited teams taking part from as far afield as Westward Ho. A total of £400.00 was raised for the charity 'Wishing for a Well' and a cheque was presented to Brian Cooper from the charity during the afternoon.

## **EAST COKER ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH**

Thank you to all of you who supported our Christmas Shopping Evening in November. We were delighted with the turnout and hope you all managed to get some presents. We made nearly £1,300.00 profit from the evening.

Jane Donnelly

## EAST COKER VILLAGE QUIZ 2010

The time is fast approaching for thoughts to be turned to the challenge of the Annual Village Quiz. This year it will be held on Saturday 13 March in East Coker Village Hall. Last year a late entry from The School Not the Teachers triumphed and won the prestigious Cockerel Trophy!

The number of teams is limited by the capacity of the hall so please make an early bid for your entry. As usual the evening will include a fish-and-chip supper, and the proceeds of the event will be donated to the charity chosen by the winning team.

Anyone interested in entering a team should contact Cherry Sowerbutts on 863313.

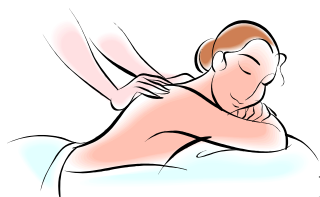
## EAST COKER W.I.

The Women's Institute always welcomes new members and guests to their meetings held at the East Coker Village Hall on the last Thursday of the month. A variety of interesting speakers are booked for the amusing to educational subjects. We also hold whist drives once a month (open to everyone) on the third Thursday of the winter months. We arrange craft days once a year. In November we held a very successful craft day making jewellery under tuition. We also enter the Somerset Federation skittles competition and hold friendly practice sessions. It is hoped to arrange a few lunch time 'eating out' days this year for those who prefer not to go out after dark. Our first meeting of the year on Thursday, 28 January is on 'Sound healing and Reiki' and the first whist drive is on Thursday 21 January at 7.30pm. Our Annual Jumble Sale will be held at the hall on Saturday 13 February at 2.00pm. We welcome any good condition items to be handed to committee members or brought to the hall from 12 noon. We would appreciate not being given electrical goods as they will not be tested.

For any further information please contact the Secretary Joyce Pryor 862816 for any further details.

### Diary dates

Thursday 21 January	Whist Drive 7.30pm
Thursday 28 January	W. I. Sound healing and Reiki 7.30pm
Saturday 13 February	Jumble Sale 2.00pm
Thursday 18 February	Whist Drive 7.30pm
Thursday 25 February	W.I. 50's Decade of Music 7.30pm
Thursday 18 March	Whist Drive 7.30pm
Thursday 26 March	Puppy walking for the blind 7.30pm
Thursday 15 April	Whist Drive 7.30pm
Thursday 29 April	W.I. Tristan da Cunha 7.30pm



## Live comfortably in your body

**Receiving massage regularly will help to relax your whole body and can ease and/or heal certain ailments, such as joint and muscle stiffness/pain, frozen shoulder, backache & sciatica, posture & mobility issues, headaches & migraines, high blood pressure, poor circulation & fluid retention, insomnia/fatigue and other stress related problems. It will also contribute to your general sense of well being and aliveness and can help to release emotions held deeply in the body, relieving anxiety and depression. I am a qualified massage practitioner trained at the Bristol College of Massage and Bodywork and a member of the Massage Training Institute. I live and work in East Coker. My treatments incorporate a wide range of techniques which will be adapted to your needs at the time. You can expect to be treated with sensitivity and respect at all times in a peaceful environment.**

**To have an informal chat and/or book an appointment call Rosie on 01935 862767 or 07733 121819. Local home visits can be arranged if necessary.**

## EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

A superb tasting of eight wines and the traditional social time following a bread competition brought to a close an extremely successful first half of East Coker Wine Circle's programme at the December meeting in the East Coker Village Hall. When the scheduled wine speaker and presenter was unable to fulfil his commitment, one of the Circle's premier winemakers, Vince Wolny, stepped in to present a blind-tasting, enabling members to compare grape varieties from around the world. The tasting included wines priced from £5 to £16 a bottle from the Vineyards wine merchants at Sherborne. The tasting was followed by the traditional pre-Christmas social time when members were able to taste the bread entered in the three competition classes for home-made loaves, together with cheese. Winners of the competition were: Edna Mitchell (white), Barbara Blackmore (brown) and Colin Canham (machine assisted). The judge was Tim Carter from Mortimer's Bakery, Yeovil. The second stage of the annual Winemaker of the Year competition was better supported than usual. Results were: Elderberry/Blackberry dry 1. Vince Wolny; 2. Joyce Pryor; 3. Ian Westaway. Social red 1. Vince Wolny; 2. Don Nicol; 3. Joyce Pryor. Liqueur 1. Ian Westaway; 2. Joyce Pryor; 3. Vince Wolny. National wine judge from Mendip was Terry Western.

The Circle's annual theme party 'World War 2' and the music of Glen Miller, this month (January), was a sell out.

Wine made and retailed in a specially painted bottles to mark the 60th Anniversary of the D-Day landings, depicting the landing beaches and the nations involved, was donated by Chairman-elect, David Pryor, for a charity competition, the proceeds from which will go to Help for Heroes.

The Circle has booked interesting speakers for the next quarter including Richard Seymour (Music Hall Mayhem), David Beckley (Magician) and Roger Stoakley (Land of Milk and Honey).

The Circle, which welcomes new members and guests, meets at the village hall on the first Wednesday in the month at 8.00pm. Any member wishing to begin winemaking or learn more about the art will find a wealth of knowledge and experience from established winemakers. Winemakers are encouraged to enter their wines in competition at local, county and regional levels, all of which have produced many successes for the circle. Wine Forum also exists for dedicated winemakers at which a variety of tastings are arranged.

Wednesday 3 February

Wine Circle Music Hall Mayhem 8.00pm

Wednesday 3 March

Wine Circle Yeovilton Past and Present 8.00pm

Wednesday 7 April

Wine Circle Magician at work 8.00pm

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## EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

### Forthcoming events

26 January – Poetry Pie, 7.30pm the Apple Loft.

23 February – Lyrics – Exploring the poetry of song lyrics.

All meetings are held at The Helyar Arms, 7.30pm

Contact details – David Cloke 862623 or our website [www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk](http://www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk)

## TIME TO SHARE

Starting at the end of the year rather than the beginning of the last quarter, not just for a change but because of the merry time members and visitors had at the Christmas Party. Both the food and entertainment were thankfully received and thoroughly enjoyed.

Moving swiftly back to October, Margaret Tringham and Howard Stockley entertained us with 'songs, Stories and Poems. There was a lot of flag waving as members joined in with singing some old war-time favourites.

Entering in most of the categories at the Annual Craft Competition, which included, photography, knitting, painting, sewing etc. The talented Lois Crisp was the outright winner and was presented with the Craft Shield by judge Gill Holt.

Unfortunately, the popular Tea Dance had to be postponed due to the ill-health of our regular musician, Steve Simpson of the Misty Trio. Sadly later in the year Steve died suddenly and our thoughts are with his wife Nola a much valued member of Time to Share.

The Christmas Bazaar in November was again successful in raising just over £100 to boost club funds.

Those who attended the Carol Service in the warmth of St Michael's Church had the added pleasure of hearing the delightful singing of Jean Bicknell. Jean is now feeling so much her old self after several years of suffering which she felt would never end.

To finish this report as it began – what a great Christmas Party it was – well done to all those involved in putting it together.

Happy New Year to everyone and see you all in 2010

### Future Programme

18 January – Line Dancing and Nora White's 'Knitting Launch'      1 February – Town Crier, Mr Old  
15 February – Around N. California in 8 Days, Janet Harfield      1 March – 'Poetry Please', Jean Caunter  
15 March – 'How we used to Live', Mike Bollon  
29 March – East Bonnet Parade and Spring Songs with Jean Bicknell

## EAST COKER PLAYERS

Panto is back!

Oh no it isn't, we hear you say. Oh yes it is!

East Coker Players proudly present our 2010 Pantomime production

### ALADDIN

Written by Eric Fowler      Directed by Beryl Snaddon.

Come along to cheer on the good guys and boo the baddies

Plenty of fun for all the family

### Performances

19 February 2010 7.30pm  
20 February 2010 Matinee 2.30pm  
20 February 2010 7.30pm

Adults/Senior Citizens £5.00 Children £4.00

Tickets available from Nora White 477897

**Book early to avoid disappointment**

## **EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB**

### **The programme for 2010 – January to April**

Thursday 14 January – 'Climate Change' a speaker from Brimsmore Garden Centre

Thursday 11 February – 'Walled Garden' – Charlotte Allen, the National Trust, Montacute

Thursday 11 March – 'Propagation' – Neil Lovesey, Picket Lane Nurseries

Thursday 8 April – Forde Abbey Gardens – Mark Roper and Alison Kennard

Monthly meetings are held in the East Coker Village Hall on the second Thursday of the month, commencing at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

For further information, please contact Catherine Denney, Honorary Secretary (862294), or Stan Shayler, Honorary Treasurer (420291).

## **Young People**

### **BROWNIES CELEBRATE**

2<sup>nd</sup> West Coker Brownies had a fantastic start to the term by joining Brownies, Rainbows and Guides from all over Somerset in Taunton for a Launch Party for the Centenary Celebrations. Guiding is celebrating its 100-year birthday this year and the girls will be completing a series of challenges over the coming months, from bike rides to midnight feasts and film making.

We currently draw from a large catchment including East Chinnock, West Chinnock, East Coker, West Coker, Hardington, Barwick, Stoford and Yeovil.

Brownies is open to all girls aged 7-11 years old and subs for a term are just £10. Weekly meetings are held at West Coker Scout and Guide Hut, Halves Lane, West Coker. We do still have some spaces available and should your daughter be interested in joining, please contact Becky on 863105 for more information.

### **EAST COKER SCHOOL**

Christmas Around the World played to packed houses. It was a great success and gave all the Key Stage 1 children the chance to take part and gave them and their families memories to treasure. Many thanks for all their support and especially to Mrs Frosdick and her team for working so hard to get everything ready and produce such a fantastic performance.

Certificates have been given to about 60 pupils who have achieved 100% attendance this term. There are some 170 children with an attendance of 95% or better and given all the various bugs and viruses around earlier this term, that is a very good rate.

There is a variety of sporting events and it is fantastic that so many children take part. Sixteen children took part in a session run by Cycling UK and eight of them subsequently raced at Huish Park in the 'Tour of Britain' curtain-raiser in front of a large crowd.

Eighteen Year 5,6, boys and girls took part in a series of events, progressing to the Partnership Finals of Indoor Athletics where they finished fourth.

There have been three Cross-country meetings this term in which a total of 47 pupils have participated. Running with fifteen other schools, Years 3,4, girls and boys and Years 5,6, girls have regularly achieved top 3 finishes.

Twenty-five boys have represented the school this term in friendly matches, and league and area cup competitions and Years 5,6, girls have done superbly in reaching the county finals.

Years 5,6, Netball team has won both matches so far and both age-group clubs have been well attended.

Ten of Year 2 pupils took part in a KS1 Multiskills at a festival at Buckler's Mead School.

Eighteen Years 3,4, pupils have taken part in two Tag Rugby festivals and nineteen older children have played in league and festival fixtures.

Many thanks must go to everyone who helps to make all this possible and especially to Mr Pittard for his commitment of time and expertise.

Spring Term starts 04 January 2010      Half term week-beginning 15 February      Term ends 01 April 2010

Richard Powell, Head Teacher

## EAST COKER PLAYGROUP

The playgroup has had a wonderful term, fully enjoying the Pavilion building and outside play opportunities the setting provides. In September we welcomed several new families and their children to the group. November saw a successful Craft Fair which raised nearly £1000 for the group. Thank you for the fantastic support.

East Coker School kindly invited the group to see their infant Christmas Show. How nice it was to see the 'old' playgroup children and the results of their hard work. Christmas is a very exciting time of year for young (and older!) children. The children have been making, painting, glittering, performing a Nativity Play for the parents and singing (really rather well I must say), partying and meeting Father Christmas. The children really have played their way through the term learning as they go, looking at what interests them, sharing their interests with others and exploring new activities and ideas.

The wealth of experience of our fully qualified staff offers quality childcare and education through play, exploring the wider environment and local community with project-based activities. Ofsted have consistently given the group excellent reports and commended us for the interaction and encouragements between staff and children, partnership with parents, teaching, management and the emphasis on fun.

Children can join us from the age of 2½ and Nursery Education Funding is available in the funding period after the third birthday. We are open during term time every weekday morning, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons and offer optional lunch cover for children who like to bring a packed lunch. For more information and to put your child/children on the waiting list please contact Kay Strode on 07798 812540 or after 6.00pm on 872126.

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## EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

**Waste Paper Collections:** The collection point is opposite the School on the last Saturday of each month from 8.30am to 10.30am. If possible please flat pack your newspapers and tie into bundles. We are now only able to collect newsprint - sorry no magazines. Arrangements for Nash Lane and Helena Road are co-ordinated separately by Ray Smith.

Newspaper Collections Saturday 30 January    Saturday 27 February    Saturday 27 March

### Jumble Sales

SPRING - Saturday 24 April    AUTUMN – Saturday 9 October East Coker Village Hall from 2.00pm.

Last year we experienced problems disposing of the remaining jumble at the end of the sale and therefore request that people only provide good quality jumble. **REMEMBER WE WILL STILL COLLECT** Contact Max Bugler 862186 Thank you for your continued support.

## **EAST COKER TEA-ROOM**

It is nice to welcome regular and new customers back after our Christmas break. We are open every day from 10.00am – 3.00pm but close at 12:30pm on a Friday afternoon to enable students to enjoy enrichment activities and staff to undertake training and attend meetings.

Our new telephone number is 863351.

Please see notices of our holiday closing times in the Tea Rooms. Thank you.

Carolyn Varley  
Head of Function Mencap  
Lufton College of Further Education  
01935 403120

## **The Churches**

### **ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH**

#### **Services**

17 February **Ash Wednesday** – 7.30am Holy Communion – 6.30pm Holy Communion, Imposition of Ashes

19 February Lent Group meets at Flavia Leng's at 3.30pm and every Friday during Lent.

14 March – **Mothering Sunday** – 10.00am Children's Flower Service.

21 March – **Passion Sunday** – 10.00am Sung Eucharist

28 March – **Palm Sunday** – 10.00am Sung Eucharist

1 April – **Maundy Thursday** – 6.30pm Holy Communion – Stripping the Altar

2 April – **Good Friday** – 10.00am Stations of the Cross

3 April – **Holy Saturday** – 10.00am Children' Activities – 6.30pm Baptismal Vows and New Fire

4 April – **Easter Day** – 8.00am Holy Communion, 10.00am Sung Eucharist

#### **Easter Craft Activity for Children age 5+**

Saturday 3 April 10.00am – 12.30pm Free entry, no charges, soft drinks and biscuits

The Easter bells will be ringing at St Michael's that day so we will be in the Gospel Hall, Burton Lane.

Contact Jacqueline Clough 850256 (CRB checked leaders)

### **ALL SAINTS' CHURCH CLOSWORTH**

#### **Family Services at Clossworth**

Despite the ice and snow, the Nativity Presentation was well attended with the Church almost full. A very big 'Thank You' to all the young people who took part. It is amazing how the confidence of the children has developed over the years. This year the presentation took the form of a TV broadcast with both an anchorman and reporters scattered over the Holy Land. My apologies to the children that they did not get their scripts until the day before due to icy conditions.

We shall be holding our usual Family Service on 17 January and again on 21 February. It is due to be held on 21 March but please check as we might move the date to the 14 March which is Mothering Sunday. In April we shall hold our 'All Ages' Service on Good Friday, 2 April and the Family Service on Easter Sunday, 4 April, both at 10.00am.

Please phone me for more details. Monica 862834

### **EAST COKER READING GROUP**

We meet on the first Tuesday evening of each month. We are currently reading "The Black Dahlia" by James Ellroy. In January we are looking at 'A Thousand Splendid Suns' by Khaled Hosseini. At the moment there are just six of us meeting but, if there is sufficient interest, we could in form a day time group as well.

If you wish to have more details please contact Kevin Chapman on 0781 2726853 or 422594 or email [ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk)



## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SUTTON BINGHAM

Thank you to everyone who donated goods and promises for our Silent Auction. Thank you, also, to all who supported us on the evening. Including donations and monies made at the Auction we are delighted to have raised £2000.00 towards the church roof repair. We have met with the Church Architect, who will be sending specifications in the New Year to various firms. We will then have a better idea of the total cost of repairs.

In addition to the monies raised at the Auction, we have since received two very generous donations from the Flower & Wine Festival and The Coker 400 Club bringing the grand total to £3000.00.

Again grateful thanks to our many loyal supportive friends

### Services

Sunday 3 January 9.00am      Sunday 17 January 11.30am  
Sunday 7 February 9.00am    Sunday 21 February 11.30am  
Sunday 7 March 9.00am      Sunday 21 March 11.30am

### Easter Services

Good Friday 2 April 11.00am Litany  
Easter Sunday 4 April 9.00am

**Churchwardens**      Mrs Carol Blackmore 862192      Mrs Heather Snook 474138

# Lose a stone in a month\*

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<p><b>MONDAY</b> Crewkerne Town Hall Victoria Buildings, Market Square, Crewkerne 10.00 - 11.30 am</p> <p>Hulsh Episcopi Primary School North Street, Langport 6.00 - 7.30 pm 7.30 - 9.00 pm (Slim &amp; Salsadise)</p> <p>Tall Trees Community Centre Tarranto Hill, Ilchester, Yeovil 09.30 - 11.00 am - <i>New Class</i></p> <p><b>TUESDAY</b> Parcroft Junior School Summerleaze Park, Yeovil 6.00 - 7.30 pm 7.30 - 9.00 pm</p>	<p><b>WEDNESDAY</b> Crewkerne Town Hall Victoria Buildings, Market Square, Crewkerne 6.00 - 7.30 pm - <i>New Class</i></p> <p><b>THURSDAY</b> East Coker Village Hall Unit 3, The Old Sawmills, Halves Lane, Yeovil 09.30 - 11.00 am</p> <p>Parcroft Junior School Summerleaze Park, Yeovil 6.00 - 7.30 pm 7.30 - 9.00 pm (Slim &amp; Salsadise)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Call Rachel on</b> <b>01935 864453</b> <small>rachel.cozens@rosemaryconley.com</small> <small>www.rosemaryconley.com</small></p> <div style="text-align: center;"><p><i>Rosemary Conley</i> Diet and Fitness Clubs</p></div>
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\* Average weight lost in trials. Class Fee: £5.75 Ref: Jan10  
**When you pay for 5 consecutive weeks**

**FREE Membership\*\* worth £10 PLUS NEW Member's Pack worth £25!**

## BIBLE MID-WEEK MEETINGS

A series in the Book of Malachi

Wednesday 20 January – Ed Moll, St George's, Wembdon – Malachi 1.1-5 – What love is this?

Wednesday 17 February – Adrian Reynolds, The Proclamation Trust – Malachi 1.6-2.9 – Hallowed be your Name

Wednesday 17 March – James Dudley-Smith, St John's, Yeovil – Malachi 2.10-16 – What God hates

Wednesday 21 April – Peter Bannister, formerly St James' Taunton – Malachi 2.17-3.18 – Ready for Justice

Wednesday 19 May – Edward Armitstead – Malachi 4.1-6 – The Dawn of the Day

The meetings take place in the East Coker Village Hall at 7.00pm. Do join us and bring your friends with you. Refreshments are served after each meeting.

For further information, please contact Edward 862575 or Roy 862519

## EAST COKER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, BURTON LANE

**Coffee Stop** The Hall is open every Wednesday from 11.00am until 1.00pm for coffee and tea. All are welcome to come along and it is simply meant to be a place where friends can get together for a chat. There is no charge for the refreshments.

**Bible Discussion** Commencing in January we shall be holding a Bible Discussion group in the Chapel on alternate Thursday evenings. We will be looking at the Max Lucado book 'Travelling Light' which is centred on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. If anyone would like to join us or form another study or discussion group, please contact Kevin Chapman for details of dates and times.

**Weekly Meetings** 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays 11.00am – Worship Service (incorporating Communion).  
2nd Sunday 11.00am – Family Service.

Other services as announced. **All** are welcome to **all** of our services.

*'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.'* John's Gospel, chapter 3, verse 16 – The Gospel in a nutshell.

Kevin Chapman is available in the village each Tuesday and Wednesday. He can be contacted on 0781 2726853 or 422594 or email ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk Please do feel free to contact him if you have any queries about the Christian faith or if you would like someone to pray with you or simply to talk to.

## Village News

### WEA – EAST COKER BRANCH

**'Cities: Past & Present** – Tutor Dr John Porter.

Tuesday 9 February 2010, Six meetings at East Coker Village Hall, Halves Lane, 2.30pm – 4.00pm.

Cost £28 payable to WEA East Coker Branch. Enquiries and enrolments to Sarah Smith 862466

### WESTLAKE SURGERY TRAINING DAYS

As in previous years, the surgery will be closed for part of one morning each month for staff training. On these mornings, there are none of the usual surgeries but a locum doctor is available to see anyone needing an appointment.

The surgery is open from 8.30 am – 11 00am as usual and then closes completely until 1.30 pm. If a medical emergency occurs during that time then patients can either dial 999 or the surgery can be contacted on 0787 575 0811. The surgery opens again as usual from 1.30 pm.

The dates of the training days in 2010 are:-

Friday 15 January	Friday 26 February	Friday 19 March	Friday 30 April	Friday 21 May
Friday 25 June	Friday 30 July	Friday 17 September	Friday 22 October	
Friday 26 November				

### SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY

The mobile library visiting times and dates for the stops in 2010 are:

#### East Coker

The Helyar Arms	11.45am – 12 noon	North Coker Bus Shelter	12.05pm – 12.25pm
Meadow View	12.30pm – 12.50pm	Maudslay Fields	12.55pm – 13.15pm

#### Sutton Bingham

Bower Farm	13.25pm – 13.45pm
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### BST – Clocks go forward 1 hour from Sunday 28 March 2010

## **MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS**

The programme of Charity Coffee Mornings held during the past 11 months at the Helyar Arms has been a great success and speaks volumes for the generosity of all those who come along to the monthly events. We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to everyone at the Helyar who have made this possible. The result of all this is that we have raised a total of £4004 for 11 charities during 2009.

We already have a full programme for 2010 and we look forward to seeing you all at the first event on Friday 29 January when the charity will be 'Help for Heroes' which raises money to provide support and rehabilitation facilities for wounded members of the Armed Forces.

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313      Penny Marpole 863055

### **Thank You**

The Coffee Morning on 30 October was a most happy gathering of goodwill and generosity. Particular thanks are due to the charming staff at the Helyar Arms, who could not have been more helpful. Allowing for overheads and expenses, £304.10 was given that morning and £210 was later raised by the sale of old jewellery. £514.10 was sent to Christian Aid with our best wishes. Additional items were passed to a sale supporting a Children's Hospice which we trust will have your approval.

John & Sue Mason

### **Thank You**

The November Coffee Morning at The Helyar Arms was in aid of Children in Need. We would like to thank everyone who supported the charity event which raised £382.00. A special thank you must be given to Matt and the staff at the Helyar Arms for their continued support and help every month.

The winners of the two competitions were – Peter Wood for 'Choose a Pudsey' and Sue Wolny for 'Guess Gary's spot – kick'.

Penny & Derek Marpole, Cherry & Martin Sowerbutts and Barbs & Don Nicol.

## **EAST COKER OIL – PURCHASE SCHEME**

The purpose of the scheme is to co-ordinate our orders for oil so that the supplier can deliver them in one trip to the village. This means his costs are reduced and we pay a lower price. I co-ordinate four orders per year on a quarterly basis in January, April, July and October. This coincides with the publication of the East Coker Society Newsletter and I have been advised that July is the time for the best price. I fill my tank in July and top it up as required in January. If you have already participated and found it worthwhile, encourage your friends and neighbours to join in. The more we can order, the better the price.

The scheme operates as follows:

- You let me know how much oil you require, either as an absolute number of litres or as a minimum amount but fill the tank. Please note that officialdom decrees a minimum order quantity of 500 litres.
- I also need any special instructions like access requirements. I specify a standard four-wheeled tanker (not a mini) anyway because of the narrow lanes and tight corners in the village.
- I collate the requirements and get the best price and a delivery date for so many thousand litres in so many drops.
- I give the supplier a list of names, addresses, phone numbers, quantities and any special instructions.
- I let everyone know the price and date. The price is the same for everyone irrespective of quantity.
- The supplier delivers the oil and invoices everyone individually.
- You pay the supplier directly.

To participate, or with any questions, contact me, preferably by email ([pauleedwards@waitrose.com](mailto:pauleedwards@waitrose.com)) or 864413. Email makes it much easier to circulate information and I do not divulge email addresses. Let me know your requirements for January by 7.00pm on Wednesday 20 January.

## **THANK YOU**

Darren and Anna Shutler would like to thank everyone who helped or took part in the Christmas Bingo on 5 December 2009 at East Coker Village Hall in aid of St Margaret's Hospice (Yeovil). We managed to raise £200. Thank you once again for your support and look out for future events.

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## NOTES FROM THE OBSERVATORY

### Winter Solstice 21 December

Winter began early this year. While winter is supposed to begin on the day of the Winter Solstice, our mild, wet, stormy autumn ended abruptly on 1 December. Since then we have had some bitterly cold weather which, as I write these notes, seems destined to continue for days to come. Fortunately the village has not had the heavy snowfalls of Eastern Counties and has escaped the traffic chaos of elsewhere.

2009 was a poor year for warm summery days. Apart from a brief spell of warm days, the year was generally a cool damp experience. Rainfall for the year so far was 811mm (31.93ins). Of that total 146mm (5.7 5ins) fell in November. Rain fell on 141 days. Our wettest day was 4 August with 29mm (1.14ins) rainfall. So far there have been 24 frosty mornings. The coldest night was on 3/4 January when the temperature fell to minus 7.7C (18.1F) while the hottest day was 1 July at 26.3C (79.3F).

The mild damp autumn days had their compensations. They brought forth a splendid crop of many different fungi on our lawns. I saw among the larger species, Lactarius, Russula, Paxillus and some very large Boletus. The most interesting was an uncommon Earth Star (*Geastrum triplex*) photographed by a correspondent outside The Bunthams.

Despite a serious reduction in butterfly numbers after the poor summer of 2008 numbers this year recovered a little. Most were Large Whites in some profusion while Commas, Red Admirals and a Painted Lady were seen flying as late as 12 October.

Blackbirds stripped a holly of a goodly showing of red berries in a few hours. I had been looking forward to a splendid crop for Christmas yet could hardly begrudge the birds a feast in very cold weather. They have no supermarket to visit! The usual family of Long-tailed Tits arrived on 18 November. A surprising flurry of about thirty Jackdaws circled Mill lane on 19 December at 1.45pm just like gulls following the plough. I could not see the reason for this activity.

One of the hazards of autumn gardening is the tendency for wasps to build a nest at ground level near the late crop of vegetables. I was stung several times, failing to realize that I was in the main flight path as I picked a late crop of beans. The severe current frosts should allow the nest to be removed in safety.

Mars will soon appear as a bright object in the southern sky, due south in late February and in March. Saturn will shortly appear in the south-east sky, not getting to a position in the south until March. The heavenly twins, Castor & Pollux will soon be near Mars.

Francis Cloke. 862496

## EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL.

East Coker Parish Council wishes everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**Pupils at East Coker School** have been issued with hi-vis jackets to highlight their walk to the school. Thanks to District & County Councillor, Cathy Bakewell for her support for this.

A small team of Parish Councillors has been set up as a working committee to attend relevant meetings in order to monitor **future planning issues** which may adversely affect East Coker parish. This mostly applies to the mandate for the expansion of Yeovil.

**South Somerset District Council** will no longer be directly in control of **Rights of Way** maintenance in its area after 1 April, 2010. The local team has been very supportive, responding promptly to repairs and problems. Responsibility will pass back to the County Council, who are currently reviewing the structure of the Rights of Way service and formulating a plan of how this will be run from April onwards. Meanwhile they have also expanded their **Handyman Service**, which has been set up to help residents who are unable to carry out essential household tasks.

**Their Love Food, Hate Waste** Campaign has been set up to encourage people to make a pledge to reduce their food waste – **only buy what you need**.

They are also now able to offer all households a **Garden Waste Collection Service**. Special Wheelie Bin (PUT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON IT!) costs £60 and you are then registered for a fortnightly collection. They also have bundles of garden waste sacks at £15 for 10 sacks. Contact Brympton Way on 462462.

In response to the ever increasing numbers of complaints about dogs fouling pavements, verges and amenity areas, South Somerset District Council has issued a new leaflet to local dog owners:

### **Dog Owners' Guide to Keeping Our Towns & Villages Clean.**

- Give your dog plenty of exercise, but keep it under control. You are legally responsible for your dog's conduct.
- **ALWAYS** clean up after your dog. Failure to do so may lead to a fine of up to £1000.
- Train your dog to use your own garden, if at all possible.
- In the interests of public health, do not allow your dog onto sports' fields and pitches.
- Your dog **MUST** wear a tag bearing your name and address. Tags are available from the Council, pet shops and vets.
- If you allow children to exercise your dogs, they must be competent, and be responsible for the dog's behaviour.
- The Enforcement Officers actively seize dogs which are unattended in public areas. These are taken to the Council's Kennelling facility and are only released on payment of the prescribed charges.
- Children can contract diseases such as toxocarosis and salmonella from dogs' mess. Ensure that your dog is wormed regularly.

**Enforcement Officers are promoting responsible dog ownership throughout South Somerset. They work closely with Parish and Town Councils to identify and target problem areas. For further information contact your local Enforcement Officer on 462462.**

### **PLEASE TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR AREA BY CLEANING UP AFTER YOUR DOG.**

**Warm Streets**, a locally based project aimed at helping householders cut their fuel bills and save energy, continues to offer free and discounted loft and cavity walls insulation for those over 70, in receipt of benefits or on a low income. They are now offering a £99 discount for the same service for other homes. Contact 0800 512012 for further advice.

**"...Where in the world could you find a Bakelite coffin, the oldest man-made road in Britain, the largest collection of Naval aircraft or Victorian prosthetic limbs.....?"**

Natalie Watson, (mobile: 07854 174272) the **Community Heritage and Museum Development Officer** for our area would like to draw attention to the new Heritage Service 'tube-map' of Somerset's best Heritage sites and an accompanying website and guidebook, which can be downloaded from [www.visitsomerset.co.uk/touringmap](http://www.visitsomerset.co.uk/touringmap). Copies are available from her at Somerset Records Office, Obridge Road, Taunton TA2 7PU 01823 362849 or 462889. This publication is ideal for tourism related businesses, B&B, etc. as well as for public information.

The new liaising **Police Officer** for our area is PC Justin Pitman. He is based at Yeovil, rather than at Crewkerne. He attended the November Parish Council meeting, and can be contacted on **0845 456 7000**.

## LOCAL ORGANIC FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BOX SCHEME DELIVERED FREE TO EAST COKER

In an attempt to support our local Somerset organic farmers, there is now a drop-off point in East Coker village for you to buy a vegetable box or fruit box. Somerset Organic Link SOL are delivering free of charge to Compton Cottage, (up past the church, top of the hill). They deliver every Wednesday morning, you can order weekly or fortnightly or ad-hoc, the week before and pay on the day at any time.

The price of a standard vegetable or fruit box is £6 or a large vegetable or fruit box is £8.30, and 5 kg sack of potatoes £2.60.

If you would like to try a box please contact Sarah Palmer 862369 for more details or email sarahpalmer66@hotmail.com.

More information about SOL can be found on their website: [www.somersetorganiclink.co.uk](http://www.somersetorganiclink.co.uk)

## VILLAGE DIARY JANUARY 2010 - April 2010

Thurs 14 Jan	Gardening Club – 'Climate Change'	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Mon 18 Jan	Time to Share – Line Dancing etc	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Thurs 21 Jan	W I – Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Tues 26 Jan	Poetry Group – 'Poetry Pie'	The Helyar Arms	7.30pm
Thurs 28 Jan	W I – 'Sound healing and Reiki'	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 29 Jan	Coffee Morning – 'Help for Heroes'	The Helyar Arms	10.00am – 12 noon
Sat 30 Jan	Scouts Newspaper Collection	Near the School	9.00am – 10.30am
Mon 01 Feb	Time to Share – Town Crier	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Wed 03 Feb	Wine Circle – 'Music Hall Mayhem'	East Coker Hall	8.00pm
Thurs 11 Feb	Gardening Club – 'Walled Garden'	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 13 Feb	W I – Jumble Sale	East Coker Hall	2.00pm
Mon 15 Feb	Time to Share – 'California'	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Thurs 18 Feb	W I – Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 19 Feb	The Players – 'Aladdin' Pantomime	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 20 Feb	The Players – 'Aladdin' Pantomime	East Coker Hall	2.30pm & 7.30pm
Tues 23 Feb	Poetry Group – 'Lyrics'	The Helyar Arms	7.30pm
Thurs 25 Feb	W I – 50's Decade of Music	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 26 Feb	Charity Coffee Morning	The Helyar Arms	10.00am – 12 noon
Sat 27 Feb	Scouts Newspaper Collection	Near the School	9.00am – 10.30am
Mon 01 Mar	Time to Share – 'Poetry Please'	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Wed 03 Mar	Wine Circle – 'Yeovilton, Past & Present'	East Coker Hall	8.00pm
Thurs 11 Mar	Gardening Club – 'Propagation'	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 13 Mar	Annual Village Quiz	East Coker Hall	7.00pm for 7.30pm
Mon 15 Mar	Time to Share – 'How we used to Live'	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Thurs 18 Mar	W I – Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
<b>Mon 22 March</b>	<b>Last day for copy for April's Newsletter</b>		
Thurs 26 Mar	W I – Puppy Walking for the Blind	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 26 Mar	Charity Coffee Morning	The Helyar Arms	10.00am – 12 noon
Sat 27 Mar	Scouts Newspaper Collection	Near the School	9.00am – 10.30am
Sun 28 Mar	BST – clocks go forward 1 hour		
Mon 29 Mar	Time to Share – Easter Bonnet Parade	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Sat 03 Apr	Children's Craft Activity	The Gospel Hall	10.00am - 12.30pm
Wed 07 Apr	Wine Circle – 'Magician at Work'	East Coker Hall	8.00pm
Thurs 08 Apr	Gardening Club – Forde Abbey	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Thurs 15 Apr	W I – Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 23 Apr	Royal British Legion – Cheese & Wine	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 24 Apr	Scouts – Jumble Sale	East Coker Hall	2.00pm

## THE HELYAR ARMS

**Burns Night** – Saturday 23 January £20 a head

Every Wednesday 'Pie Day' – Homemade Pies £6.95. Every Monday 'Steak Night' – 2 steaks £20.

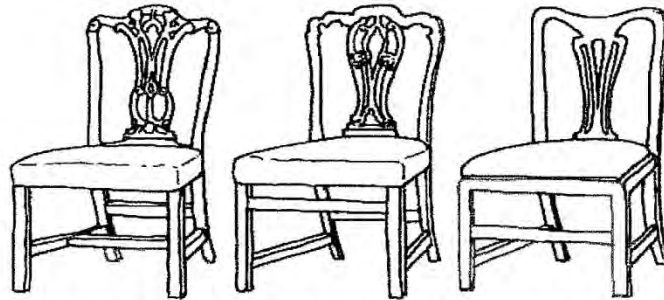
### Quiz Night

To be held on the last Sunday of each month. Four persons per team at £5 per team. Good fun for everyone!

## NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in April 2010. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or e-mail [L.Lindsay@eastcoker.com](mailto:L.Lindsay@eastcoker.com) or to The Store, East Coker by **Monday 22 March 2010**.

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