East Coker Society Newsletter

January 2011

Free Issue No 141



Chair: John Sugg	863435	
Newsletter Editor: Lesley Lindsay	862868	I.lindsay@eastcoker.com
Secretary: Sarah Owen	862218	-

Secretary: Sarah Owen 862218 Treasurer: Keith Helliar 863700

East Coker Society News

Happy New Year!

MORE EMAILS PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE!

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 arises through illness and holidays etc.

We have roughly 800 households in the village, yet only 199 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.

LITTER

East Coker is admired by visitors from both home and abroad. We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful village. Some people already help with litter picking. We can all help by clearing the areas close to our own homes or on our walks around the village.

VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY 2011

The 2011 Diary is now at The Stores, 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.

THE EAST COKER SHOPPING BAG

The 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 Stores, East Coker, or Sarah Owen 862218

WINTER FAYRE 2010

The Winter Fayre held on 20 November 2010 was a resounding success and raised £485 for Sutton Bingham Church Roof Appeal as well as additional funds for participating stall-holders. Olivia and Gabriella Sugg organised the cake stall again for the East Coker Society raising an impressive £92.45. We would like to thank Carol Blackmore for organising this enjoyable event and to all the other contributors who helped in so many ways.

Village Clubs and Organisations

EAST COKER SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

We have recently played our club competitions and the winners were Val Lucas for the ladies and George Dudden for the gentlemen. The pairs competition was won by Andy Adams and George Dudden.

A Charity Bowls Tournament was held in November with clubs from as far afield as Westward Ho taking part. A total of £676.00 was raised for Help the Heroes. Their local representative was presented with a cheque and then kindly presented the trophies to the winners.

A group of our members have been working closely with East Coker School and all 150 junior school children have been able to experience Short Mat Bowls during the Autumn Term. We have taken groups of about 15 at a time for an hour's taster session. We hope to start a school bowling club in the new year for those children who wish to progress with their bowling.

If anyone would care to join us we will be very pleased to see you. Please contact George Dudden 864222 or Tony Robins 864174

EAST COKER 400 CLUB

The winners of the December draw: Mrs M Field £100; Mr A Gilshenan £100; Mr P Pisani £50; Lady F Leng £50; Mrs J Ogilvie £40; Ms S Hedges £30; Mr C Bingley £20; Mrs C Mead £15; Mrs B Chatwin £10; Ms S Owen £10.

The 400 Club has been pleased to donate £300 to All Saints' Church, Sutton Bingham for their Roof Appeal and £200 to the Flying Colours Appeal for Yeovil Women's Hospital.

Anyone wishing to join the 400 Club should please contact Gloria Mead 862364; Mary Ashley 862263; Arthur Rees 862828; or Mike Weston 862472. The annual subs are £20 payable quarterly by Bankers Order, if possible. There are four draws a year with cash prizes from £100 to £10 and donations to charity are made annually.

EAST COKER READING GROUP

We generally meet on the first Tuesday evening of each month. There are currently ten members (nine women and one man) and we are considering also forming a day time group if numbers continue to increase. We are currently reading 'The Interpretation of Murder' by Jed Rubenfield. Sometimes we spend the entire evening talking about the book and sometimes it barely gets a mention! If you wish to have more details or are interested in joining the group or forming a daytime group please contact Kevin Chapman on 07812726853 or 01935 422594 or email ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk

EAST COKER KEEP FIT.

The recent Christmas Lunch held at the East Coker Village Hall raised £1,200. This was the 30th Christmas Lunch the group have prepared, cooked and served. This year 200 people sat down to the traditional Roast Turkey dinner. A big thank you to all who helped and to all the people who have supported this event over the years.

Keep Fit recommences on Tuesday 11 January 2011 at 6.15pm. New members welcome.

Further details from Mary Ashley 862263

EAST COKER ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

Thank you very much to all of you who supported out Christmas Fayre on 4 November. We raised just over £1,100.00 from this event all of which will go to our Touching Tiny Lives Appeal to help doctors find ways to reduce the unacceptably high rate of premature birth, prevent pregnancy complications that threaten babies' lives, and develop better treatments for sick and vulnerable babies.

Jane Donnelly

EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

The competition evening

This year's competition was on the theme of 'East Coker', and we were looking for descriptive pieces about the village. There were only a few entries this year, but the overall standard of poems was excellent. The competition evening, at which the winners were announced, was held on 26 October 2010. In a departure from our usual format, there were three judges, who gave their comments on each of the entries, before announcing the winners. This was somewhat nerve-racking for the entrants, but in the end constructive criticism is always useful. We had intended to have three equal winners, but as there was a 'tie' we ended up with four winners: Amelia Bennett, David Cloke, Julie Mulder and Heather Murphy. Congratulations to these four, thanks to everyone who entered a poem, thank you, of course, to our three judges who did a difficult job well and especially thanks again to David Cloke for organising the whole thing. We will be holding another competition in 2011, but haven't yet decided the subject, so look out for more details.

Tuesday 22 February – **No Contest!** – Ian White introduces some poems by Bob Dylan and some by John Keats.

All meetings will be at The Helyar Arms, East Coker and will start at 7.30 pm

Contact Group Co-ordinator David Cloke 862623 or Ian White 864206



Are you suffering from joint and muscle stiffness, high blood pressure, headaches or postural and mobility issues, or are you feeling stressed and finding it difficult to cope with your life? Massage can help! As well as smoothing out the aches and pains and tensions it can also contribute to your general sense of well being and aliveness.

Why not take the opportunity to find out how that might feel?

I am a qualified massage practitioner and I live and work in East Coker. You will be treated with sensitivity and respect at all times within a homely and peaceful environment.

To have a chat and/or book an appointment call Rosie on 01935 862767 or 07733121819.

EAST COKER VILLAGE QUIZ 2011

Once again 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 12 March in East Coker Village Hall.

Last year the Action Research team put on a formidable performance to win 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 WINE CIRCLE

Following the success of the live music at the East Coker Wine Circle's summer BBQ tickets are in great demand for the Annual Theme Party at which the same group will be playing. Appropriately named 'Fine Whines', the musicians are known as the swinging duo with a sextet effect - not because of an increase in decibels but because they play six instruments! In fact they pride themselves on being a group which does not have to rely on over amplification. They will be an attraction for dancers and non-dancers alike. The duo will also be augmented to a trio for this event, the theme for which is 'Black and White'. Tickets can be obtained from the Treasurer, 863555 for £8 to include a two-course meal and free punch as long as it lasts. So why not come along and sample the Wine Circle's generous hospitality.

The New Year programme continues its main theme of food and drink and will include a talk and tasting by the Ilchester Cheese Co; a French Evening with a Burgundy wine-tasting by the Rev Terry Bailee; a talk and tasting on cider by author, James Crowden and another commercial tasting to end the season. Guests are always welcome at £2 for an ordinary evening and £3 for a tasting evening, refundable on joining the Circle. A year's subscription is only £10. Come along, enjoy wine and perhaps learn how to make wine. This year we have a dozen members taking up the challenge of making a fresh dry white Germanic-style wine. Happy New Year

Diary Dates

- 2 February Talk and tasting by Ilchester Cheese Co. East Coker Village Hall 8.00pm
- 2 March '9 to 5 No Thank-you' East Coker Village Hall 8.00pm
- 6 April French Evening Burgundy tasting East Coker Village Hall 8.00pm
- 9 April Theme Party 'Black & White' music by Fine Whines East Coker Village Hall 7.30pm

EAST COKER BULK OIL PURCHASE

In response to the question of how many deliveries and when, fourteen of the fifty or so participants replied. The majority were in favour of filling our tanks in July / August when the price is lowest and topping up in January / February. In the last two years January has been problematical and looks to be worse in 2011.

We have telephoned our usual supplier, Pearce Energy twice this week. There is a national shortage of kerosene and any orders placed now will be for delivery in February. Nobody is prepared to quote prices that far ahead. The price for oil delivered today (22nd December) was 68.8p per litre. Some suppliers have taken their phones off the hook; others are only taking orders from customers with accounts. Our advice is to check your tank and plan ahead and get yourself in the queue, bearing in mind it might be a 4 to 6 week delay. As we are unlikely to get a discount for a bulk purchase in January / February, our next attempt at getting oil at a good price will be in July/August, when we hope it will again be a buyers' market. We might try top-ups in November 2011 and March 2012. That way we should avoid the pre-Christmas panic and the rise in prices if there is bad weather. Sometimes you just can't win!

To participate or with any questions, contact us, preferably by email (<u>pauledwards@waitrose.com</u>) or 01935 864413. Email makes it much easier to circulate information and we do not divulge email addresses.

Paula & Paul Edwards

EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

January to April Programme

- 13 January Gardening Folklore Mike Burke, Castle Gardens
- 10 February Bulbs Chris Ireland-Jones, Avon Bulbs, Mid Lambrook
- 10 March Propagation Neil Lovesey, Picket Lane Nursery, South Perrott
- 14 April From Brussels with Love Mary Benger, Burrow Farm Gardens

Apart from our monthly programme of speakers, day trips are organised to gardens and garden events both locally and further afield. During the popular annual spring three/four day club holiday, members have visited places of gardening interest in Wales, Worcestershire, Cornwall and Devon, the Cotswolds, and Sussex.

Monthly meetings are held in the East Coker Village Hall, Halves Lane on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Further information can be obtained from Catherine Denney, Hon. Secretary (862294) or Stan Shayler, Hon. Treasurer (420291).

EAST COKER WI

Following a successful year, with a variety of interesting talks, the committee continue to search out speakers who stimulate the imagination as well as deal with items of importance to the community. In January a speaker is booked to explain the recent project of introducing cranes to the Somerset levels, birds which have not been seen in England in the wild for a long time. In February we have a speaker telling us about Montacute House, a place so close on our doorsteps we tend to forget it is there. March brings a speaker on 'Somerset Sight'. We all take for granted being able to see, but there are those who do not share in this advantage. The rest of the year follows a similar trend. We always extend a warm welcome to new members or just visitors who would like to sample an evening before deciding whether the group provides the type of evening they are interested in. On Saturday,12 February there will be the Annual Jumble Sale at the East Coker Village Hall from 2.00pm where many bargains can be found. We also run monthly whist drives at the East Coker Village Hall on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. For any further information please contact the Secretary Audrey Spurr 862342

Dates for the diary

Thursday 20 January
Thursday 27 January
Saturday 12 February
Thursday 17 February
Thursday 24 February
Thursday 17 March
Thursday 31 March
Whist Drive – East Coker Village Hall 7.30pm
W.I. Jumble Sale – East Coker Village Hall 2.00pm
Whist Drive – East Coker Village Hall 7.30pm
Whist Drive – East Coker Village Hall 7.30pm
Somerset Sight – East Coker Village Hall 7.30pm

EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Some of you will be aware, apart from being Chairman I have taken on the role of Poppy Appeal Organiser (PAO) for the Branch Area. I could not do this without the help of Jill, my wife, and the Committee. The branch area covers five villages. How Sue Hounsell and husband Barry ran it from Bridport for 11 years, is a credit to them – a truly dedicated couple. Last year £6000 was raised for the appeal – a record for Sue. This year the total is £6,418.78. A magnificent sum. My sincere thanks to all collectors, especially the new ones who have joined us this year and to all who gave so generously in the villages. Thanks also to those shops and establishments who have had static boxes and to others who make generous donations, including the churches. We truly live in a very caring community.

All monies raised are used by the Legion to provide welfare support to all veterans, their dependants and serving personnel, especially the injured returning from Afghanistan. Some will require treatment for many years to come. To this end the RBL has pledged £13,000,000 to operate four Personnel Recovery Centres over the next 10 years. The centres are being built by the charity. 'Help for Heroes'. Another £12,000,000 has been pledged to operate a Battle Back Centre in conjunction with the Ministry of Defence.

Events We were hoping to hold our Annual Cheese & Wine Evening on Friday 29 April 2011, which is the branch 80th Anniversary, having been formed on 29 April 1931. The committee have decided to defer this event, as it clashes with the Royal Wedding. The day has also been declared a Bank Holiday. In early June the RBL will celebrating its 90th Anniversary. The branch is hoping to hold an event. Further information for both events will be promulgated, when known. Thank you all for your support. We are a strong branch with 106 members. If you feel you would like to join us and become more involved in the charity, either as a Poppy Appeal Collector, or member. Please contact any of the those listed below.

Chairman: David Holland 862782; Secretary: Marilyn Smith 863944; Acting Membership Secretary Caroline Field 863271

EAST COKER PLAYERS

Happy New Year to you all from the Players

The last few meetings of the year saw us putting on a Halloween Social Evening with poems, songs and sketches, with a decorated hall, spooky costumes and a soup supper. We all had a great night. Thank you to all who helped and attended.

We also learnt a new carol with Liz Barnes and had an evening at the theatre to see the Bright Sparks show. The year ended with a Carols and Christmas song social evening.

Dates for the Diary

We start this year with our AGM on Monday 10 January 2011. 7.30pm – All welcome. We would like to see some more new faces to join our three new young members.

7 February 2011 - Drama Workshop 7.00pm

7 March 2011 - Read Through Plays/Casting. Adults and Children welcome 7.00pm

13 & 14 May 2011 - Play weekend.

This December we would love to put on another Pantomime, but it will only be possible with enough members to take part on the stage and behind the scenes.

Join The Players this year for a yearly subscription of £5 adults & £2 children. We meet on the first Monday of the month in the Dampier Room -7.00pm

For more details contact Anne Hartley 862060 or Hazel Giddings 429163

Copperfields Services

Property Maintenance

Pete Clarke

01935 432215

07756 839225

Extensions

Conversions Painting & Decorating

Garden Landscaping

No job too small

Reliable Local Family Business

EAST COKER MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

We have now reached the end of another year of monthly coffee mornings which continue to provide the opportunity for a regular village get-together with the benefit of raising money for a charity at each event, something that is hugely appreciated in these financially difficult times.

The amount collected for the charities for this year is £2746. This compares with £4004 in 2009. Clearly it is disappointing that the amount collected has diminished and whilst it is perhaps not surprising in the current financial climate it has been noticeable that attendance at the Friday morning events has reduced over the course of the year. We have a full programme of events for next year but we would like to feel reassured that attendance would return to the numbers experienced in 2009 and previously.

We are sure you will understand that the organisation of each event demands the same amount of effort from ourselves, from the staff at The Helyar Arms which is generously contributed, and importantly from each charity which the event supports – making cakes, collecting raffle prizes and generally putting their part of the event together.

It is clear that many people enjoy these social occasions and continue to support them. However, we would like to feel that in 2011 the attendance numbers will return to their former levels so that we can give the charities a positive view of what these events can contribute to their chosen cause.

We are very grateful for the continued generosity of our regular supporters and hope that we can resume the previous level of enthusiastic response from the wider community to help the needy and deserving charities.

The next event, which Penny and Cherry are hosting, is for **Help for Heroes** and we hope to have a really great turnout for this wonderful charity. We will look forward to seeing you all on Friday 28 January at 10.00am.

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313 and Penny Marpole 863055

TIME TO SHARE

As another year approaches, let's just reflect a while on the one we are leaving – as least as far back as July when we last contributed to the Newsletter – better late than never!

What a diverse hand interesting mix went into our programme. Talks from our own members of holidays and memories from 'Home & Away'; Touring on Cuba – Phil and Stella; Cycling Through Cornwall – Jenny – who has got the t-shirt to prove it!; Pam & Sheila, on living in Burton Lane as children and attending the Chapel just down the road.

Our 35th Birthday was celebrated in August, in Lois Crisp's delightful cottage garden. At the AGM there was time to boost funds with a 'Bring & Buy'.

The Craft Competition & Exhibition in September was judged by Gill Holt, whose late mother established this event. After presenting the Winner's Shield to Lois Crisp, and the Winner's Cup to Jenny Lumley, Gill went on to bring us a glimpse of the 'desert magic' she experienced on a recent visit to Morocco.

The days outing to Swanage in September was a great success with quite a few trippers tripping off further afield but managing to return to the coach on time – would it have left without them? – living dangerously some would say.

In October, Kim Corey and her group, dressed in colourful and exotic attire entertained us with a display of middle-eastern and hybrid-western belly-dancing.

With Remembrance Sunday approaching, Hannah Robinson, a Somerset Community Fund-raiser for the Royal British Legion, showed us slides of her work and stressed the need for volunteers. She was joined by David Holland, who informed us of the March of Honour which was due to come through East Coker on the 6 November. Next year is the 90th Anniversary of the Legion, sad to think that there is still a need for such an honourable organisation after the promise of a 'War to End All Wars'.

A moving and thoughtful talk was given by Michael Forester on behalf of Guide Dogs for the Deaf. Not only did Michael hold our individual attention throughout, but his loyal dog, Max, seemed to be hanging on to his every word yet he must have heard it all before. A considerable number of Michael's fundraising book @If it wasn't for that Dog' were sold at the end of the meeting.

The Christmas Bazaar held in November raised £200, with members supporting the sale of produce and bric-a-brac and enjoying a variety of side attractions.

Nora White reported that her knitting launch had been a great success with members and friends making 90 hats; 10 sets of scarves, mitts and hats; several pairs of gloves and 3 scarves. Most items went into the 'Shoe Box Appeal' for Romania, some were given to St Michael's Church and the remainder taken to the Ilminster Collection Depot. Premature baby cardigans and first-size garments and soft toys were donated to the Yeovil Baby Unit – 30 items in all. Nora thanked everyone for their efforts.

The Annual Carol Service was held at St Michael's Church, with some members of the choir enhancing our voices including the delightful solo from Jean Bicknell.

The Christmas Party finished the 2010 programme. We were joined by volunteers, who give their time and support throughout the year. The most generous bequest of the late Julie Whetham meant that all costs were covered as she wanted the Club to spend it on 'fun' things. Out thanks and thoughts were extended to her family. Julie attended regularly, despite failing health and was a most lively and popular member who so enjoyed the friendship she found at Time to Share.

Now with extreme gratitude and some sadness we will shortly be saying goodbye to Alison Charles as our Chairman. She will however, as a member be standing by throughout the transition period to assist the next incumbent. After 16 years keeping the Club afloat she is beginning to feel rather fragile and who can blame her. She thinks the Club need some new blood to simulate and organise future programmes. Certainly the committee members understand and respect her decision. But what a 'power-horse' she will have been and so deserving of more free time. Enjoy it Alison, but not before you have found us a replacement – you can do it!

Wishing you all a warm and healthy 2011

Future Events

24 January – Singing Entertainment 7 February – Life of a Driving Instructor 21 February – Recycling 7 March – Travelling in New Zealand 21 March – Poetry Reading

CHILDREN IN NEED COFFEE MORNING

We would like to thank everyone who supported the Coffee Morning at the Helyar Arms on 26 November, your generosity raised £385 towards this worthwhile charity. Last year it raised nearly £40,000,000 and every penny goes towards supporting UK children in the main. All administrative costs are met from investments.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all the hard work Penny, Derek, Cherry and Martyn put into these events every month.

Don & Barbs Nicol

Young People

EAST COKER TEA-ROOMS

Penny, Ann and the students welcome regular and new customers to The Tearooms (near the School). We are open every day from 9.00am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday throughout the year for Coffee and Cakes, Light Lunches and Tea and Cakes, serving good home-cooked food. Cream Teas are also available with prior notice.

We are closed Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays.

For more information visit our website www.eastcokertearooms.co.uk Telephone 863351

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.

29 January 26 February 26 March 30 April

EAST COKER SCHOOL

Autumn Term News

The children supported Children in Need and £120.76 was raised by a non-uniform day and a Cake Sale raised the grand amount of £232.10.

The sporting prowess of the pupils of the school knows no bounds with Football for years 3-6 boys and girls; Tag Rugby years 3-6; Netball years 3-6; Dance year 2; and Multi-skills year 2. Pupils have participated in school fixtures/interschool events in boys and girls Football (years3-6); Netball (years 5 and 6); Cross Country (years 3-6); Indoor Athletics (years 3-6); Tag Rugby (years 3-6) and Hoop Ball (Year 2).

The year 5,6 indoor athletics team won both the Yeovil Area and the Partnership Meetings and qualified for the county finals in January.

The year 5,6 boys football team were joint winners of the Yeovil District Tournament and reached the semifinals of the Partnership tournament.

The girl's football team were joint winners of the Yeovil Area Tournament and reached the semi-finals of the Partnership tournament and qualified for the county finals.

Nearly 40 children from East Coker have taken part in three cross-country meetings this term. On average there have been fifteen schools and about 100 runners in each race. The Year 3,4 girls team has won each competition. The younger boys have had one win and two third paces and the older boys have had a third and fourth, whilst the year 5,6 girls have had one third place. Many children have had top ten finishes with one of them winning the race at Aldon Hill near the Yeovil Showground. A tremendous term for participation and success and well done to all and many thanks to those who make these events possible.

Term 3 4 January – 18 February Half Term 19 February – 27 February Term 4 28 February – 8 April

Richard Powell, Head Teacher

EAST COKER PLAYGROUP

Happy New Year to you all

What an exciting Autumn Term the playgroup had! The children explored Space and pulled all their interests into the theme which meant there were all sorts occurring in 'Outer Space'. The children are able to enjoy both the inside and outside to play in. The children love to take outside the dressing up, sand pit, water play, small world toys, creative toys and musical instruments as well as the traditional outside toys, the ride-ons, balls, hoops and bean bags. We mix it all up and enjoy our wonderful location at the recreation ground and our lovely playroom.

The weather during December bought much excitement with two snowfalls, we were lucky and the Playgroup was able to stay open. As I watched the snow falling one morning through the window of the doorway several of the children came across the playroom to observe the snow. I remarked, 'Look at the snow.' One of the boys told me, "They are snowflakes". We stood and watched the snow fall cover the cleared pathway and chatted about the snow. Then, like children do, the interest was gone and they all went off to play with the toys in the playroom.

Term finished with the Christmas Show to the parents and carers, a medley of favourite songs, some Christmas favourites, some songs that are popular all year round, all themed around Santa and his sleigh. Oh, those jingle bells rang out. The snow on Friday did not stop the Christmas party and Santa could arrive on his sleigh this year!

Our Craft Fair, held in November raised over £900. The playgroup would like to extend a massive thank you to everyone who supported this fundraising event.

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 $2\frac{1}{2}$ and Early Years Entitlement (formerly 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

The Churches

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Services

6 February 10.00am Family Eucharist

6 February 6.00pm Evensong

13 February 8.00am Holy Communion 13 February 10.00am Sung Eucharist 20 February 10.00am Sung Eucharist 20 February 6.00pm Evensong

27 February 10.00am Sung Eucharist

27 February 6.00pm Evensong

6 March 10.00am Family Eucharist

6 March 6.00pm Evensong 9 March Ash Wednesday

13 March 8.00am Holy Communion – Lent begins

13 March20 March20 March20 March6.00pm Evensong

27 March 10.00am Sung Eucharist

27 March 6.00pm Evensong.

3 April Mothering Sunday – please see the Parish Magazine for service times

Lent at St Michael's. It seems a bit premature to think about Lent before Christmas but if it is wanted I would be prepared to organise a Prayer Group in Lent. If you are interested please phone me or check the Parish Magazine.

Christmas Trees in St Michael's

One of the delights of these decorated trees in church over Christmas was to see scores of people lingering after the services and making their way round to have a careful look at the imaginative efforts of nearly every Club or Society of East Coker. Friends and neighbours mixed freely whilst visitors and families were glad to see what can be achieved here. It was to credit of all. Thank you to all decorators.

BIBLE MID-WEEK MEETINGS - A Series in Genesis 1-12 - 'God's Creative Call'

Wednesday 19 January 7.00pm Ian Lewis, St Bartholomew's, Bath - Genesis 1:1 - 2:3 'The Creation'

Wednesday 16 February 7.00pm Edward Armistead – Genesis 2:4 – 24 'Adam and Eve'

Wednesday 16 March 7.00pm Peter Bannister, formerly St James, Taunton – Genesis 3:1 – 4:16 'The First Sin'

Wednesday 20 April 7.00pm Justin Mote, North West Ministry Training Course – Genesis 6:1 – 7:10 'The Flood'

These meetings will take place in The East Coker Village Hall. Do come and join us and bring you friends with you. Refreshments after each meeting. For further information, please contact Edward Armistead 862785 or Roy Hodder 862519

ALL SAINTS' CLOSWORTH

13 February
20 February
27 February
13 March
20 March
20 March
20 March
21 March
22 March
23 February
24 March
25 March
26.30pm Evensong
26.30pm Evensong
27.00am Family Service
27.00am Holy Communion

Monica 862834

THANK YOU

I should like to thank all those people who have offered help and support to the less able and elderly during the snow. I myself am very grateful for both phone calls and visits and offers of help and for those surprise meals. Time was when I went round on my skis visiting and offering help but now with the skis disposed of I am very grateful, as I am sure many other elderly people are of offers of help.

Monica

EAST COKER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, BURTON LANE

Weekly Meetings Sundays 11.00am. 2nd Sunday of the month 11.00am – Family Service. Other services as announced. **All** are welcome to **all** of our services.

Coffee Stop. The Hall is open every Wednesday from 11.00am until 1.00pm for coffee and tea. Everyone is 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.

We also run a Home Group for anyone interested in discussing the Christian faith and there is a youth group meeting midweek for those between 18 and 30.

Little Wheelers is a mother and toddlers group meeting in the East Coker Village Hall on a Tuesday morning from 10.30am until 12.00 noon.

Kevin Chapman is available from Tuesday to Friday. He can be contacted on 07812726853 or 01935 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.

'Unto Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen' Ephesians, chapter 3, verses 20 and 21.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SUTTON BINGHAM

Services

6 February 9.00am Holy Communion

20 February 11.30am Sung Holy Communion

6 March 9.00am Holy Communion

20 March 11.30am Sung Holy Communion

2010 has been a year of change and restoration. Early in the year we were introduced to Rev. David Wilson, who has now been at West Coker since the spring and has overall responsibility for the seven churches in our rural group. We look forward to working with him in the future.

We held our Annual PCC Meeting in April with heavy hearts, knowing that it was the last one for Rev Roger Burt. His final service on 16 May saw every pew full, and after a convivial Buffet Lunch in the Church, we presented Roger with an Icon of the Dormition of Mary, Mother of Jesus, as depicted on the North Wall of the chancel in one of our world famous Wall Paintings. We know Roger will cherish this Icon as a memory of All Saints' and we will have many special memories of him as he leaves us. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

The main event of the year concerned the repair of the nave roof. Financially, we were not really in a position to proceed, but we all felt that the urgency of the repair was such that we decided to carry on regardless and gave ourselves a Christmas target for completion. Our architect, Michael Howarth, engaged Ellis Builders from Shepton Mallet, (who also repaired the roof at Halstock church) and we were given a start date for mid-October. The estimate gave us no change from £50,000, and we had £30,000 in our funds, so it was time to fund raise in top gear and to apply for grants from several charities. 'The Friends of Somerset Churches and Chapels' came up trumps with an amazing £10,000; 'All Churches' donated £1000 and 'The Garfield Weston Foundation' has recently granted £3,000. We are indebted to these charities for their generosity.

(The FSCC work very hard to maintain the permanence and continuity of local places of worship and their annual Ride & Stride event around Somerset churches raises funds to enable them to offer grants to churches such as ours. Please join them next September for this sponsored event!)

St Michael's Church, East Coker, have very kindly supplemented our shortfall as we were anxious to complete the payments before VAT changes in the new year – we are indebted to them for this.

Many local clubs and societies, and individuals (especially from East Coker) have made generous donations and organized events, making our fund-raising that much easier in difficult times, and for which we are extremely grateful.

The 'Sponsor a Tile' initiative has also boosted our funds and donors' names/tributes will be held for posterity in our 'Book of Benefactors'.

The final fundraising event was the Winter Fayre, held at the village hall in November. East Coker Society had kindly offered their help at this annual event, with the profit of over £465 going to Sutton Bingham Church. We are most grateful to the East Coker Society who prepared and served the refreshments, to Father Christmas, and to the Sugg family and helpers who organized the cake stall on our behalf.

Sadly our popular Candlelit Carol Service had to be cancelled due to the freeze-up in December but services will resume in the New Year - 1st Sunday of the month: 9.00am, Holy Communion and 3rd Sunday: 11.30am, Holy Communion. East Coker churchwardens, Penny and Ian, have ensured that we have had a team of ministers to cover these during the vacancy and we all look forward to the appointment of a new incumbent in 2011 to lead our three churches.

We now have a completely restored roof, using mostly reclaimed hamstone roof tiles, and a repaired and newly decorated nave ceiling - both have retained their full character. Within the last year, and thanks to everyone who has contributed, Sutton Bingham has confirmed that it will move forwards into 2011, its 900th year, with renewed vigor and in good heart, and, after all the hard weather, the carpet of snowdrops will soon be flowering in the churchyard '....if winter comes, can spring be far behind?'

Carol Blackmore, Pippins, Burton Lane, East Coker 862192

Heather Snook, Darvole Farm, East Coker 474138

Village News

WEA EAST COKER BRANCH

Britain's Ancient Heritage – This is a celebration of some of the countries archaeological monuments as varied from Stonehenge to Victorian Defensive Forts.

Six weekly meetings from Tuesday 8 February 2011, in the Dampier Room, East Coker Village Hall, 2.30pm – 4.00pm. Tutor Peter Stanier. Cost £29 or free with a receipt of means test benefit

Enquiries and enrolments to Sarah Smith 862466, cheques payable to WEA East Coker Branch

EAST COKER PRESERVATION TRUST

East Coker Preservation Trust sincerely thanks all who put such effort into commenting on South Somerset District Council's Draft Core Strategy. The Trust engaged planning and historic environment consultants who made submissions in addition to its own, all of which were high quality and copied to the various political representatives, and acknowledged by the council. Hopefully they will take our submissions seriously.

Our submissions and other information will be posted on our new web site which is preparation and will hopefully be running within the next few weeks and will be a source of community reference information with regard to planning issues and development updates. When it is up and running links to it will be posted on our temporary blog site, whose address remains www.eastcokerpreservationtrust.blogspot.com

The Trust aims to engage positively with the council's process of developing its local plans over the coming year, and to bring the community together for various interesting events once the weather gets a bit warmer.

In the mean time the Trust wishes all in East Coker and beyond a Very Happy New Year and thanks them for their support.

In order to make sure we can continue to afford high quality professional advice please support us financially in any way you can, by sending cheques made out to East Coker Preservation Trust to Richard Vanderpump at Homefield Byre, Moor Lane, East Coker BA22 9JR

STAMPS FOR C.L.I.C.

After 20 years I am unable to collect used postage stamps for C.L.I.C. (Cancer and Leukaemia in Childhood). However Vicky at The Stores will accept them and Lesley Lindsay will take them to the C.L.I.C. shop in Yeovil. The stamps are sold and the money is used for vital research. Thank you for your efforts and please keep saving them.

Micky Hall

SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY

The mobile library visiting times and dates for the stops in 2011 are: 20 January 10 February 3 March 24 March 14 April

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

ROSEMARY CONLEY DIET AND FITNESS CLUB IN EAST COKER

My name is Rachel Cozens and I run Rosemary Conley Diet and Fitness Club in East Coker. The class is a very warm and friendly and we have all different age groups, and we have helped members lose 41.5 stone since I launched this class November 2009. I would like to help you become slimmer, trimmer, fitter and healthier in 2011.

If you have never been to a Rosemary Conley Class before you really are in for a treat. All of our classes are warm and friendly; we are the only diet club that offers exercise as well as one to one nutritional advice and a weigh in. We also offer a fantastic FREE support network at home with www.rosemaryconley.com and www.rosemaryconley.tv. This is a fantastic website where you can do 7 minutes exercise routines; cook delicious low fat recipes with Dean Simpole-Clarke and Rosemary; see how other successful slimmer's have achieved their goal even when things get tough; listen to health topics with Rosemary and Dr Hilary Jones and listen to very interesting talks with our psychiatrist Dr Raj Persaud. We know that it is not always easy to keep motivated so we do everything we can to help you. We also have a fantastic magazine 9 times a year. If you join Premier Club which costs only £25.00 a month you will get two exercise classes week and a FREE magazine! Fantastic value! Why not have a look and visit now. If you are a new member and come to class in January you can come to your first class for FREE (no diet pack included), all you need to do is bring the attached voucher and book a place as classes get full quickly, if

you decide to join the following week you can join for free with no membership fee if you pay for 5 consecutive weeks for only £30.00 (cash or cheques accepted), this includes your diet pack. Or you can join the Premier Club for £25.00 a month and attend two classes a week plus a free magazine. There is no need to worry about the exercise as we are unique in the way that we teach, we offer three different levels, so whatever your goal, YOU CAN DO IT! I have worked as a physiotherapist assistant on the wards of Yeovil District Hospital and have worked with many people who have restricted mobility and health problems so there are no excuses! Remember prevention is better than cure!



We have a very special member at our East Coker class, Vicki, she was a size 20 and she is now a size 12! 3 and 1/2 stone lighter! You too can do it, Vicki made her decision to change her life when a leaflet came through the door, and little did she know that just 8 months later, Vicki herself would be featured on the January 2011 leaflet! Vicki, just like most of my members is a very busy person; she has 4 children and is a working mum. She has found the Rosemary Conley Diet classes perfect for her, Vicki says "Portion Pots, exercise, recipes all the family can eat and weekly classes has helped her keep on track." If you come to my East Coker class you will meet her in person, she is my cashier therefore she will greet you as you come through the door. If you do want to join in the exercise session please bring with you a bottle of water, an exercise mat if you have one or a large towel for the floor work and wear loose, comfortable clothing and a pair of training shoes. Many members wear leggings and a T-shirt, but whatever you feel happy exercising in is fine. However, if you don't wish to join in the exercise session, that's fine too.

Rachel Cozens - Rosemary Conley Diet & Fitness Franchisee, Yeovil

Email: rachel.cozens@rosemaryconley.com Tel: 864453

CANTERBURY TALES - THE PANTO

The Hardington Players are well into rehearsals for their Pantomime in February. This year they are performing **Canterbury Tales – The Panto**, directed by Julia Beckley. Whilst loosely based on Chaucer's epic tale it is very much a traditional panto starring all the usual suspects.

Performances will be in the Village Hall, Hardington Mandeville, on the following dates and times:

Thursday 3 February, Friday 4 February (both performances start at 7.30pm).

Saturday 5 February (2.30pm for the matinee and 8pm for the evening performance).

Tickets are priced at £6 for adults and £3 for children and will be on sale from 4 January 2011 at Springfield Stores, Hardington (Open Monday to Saturday 8.30am to 1.00pm Tel 01935 862363)

We'd love to see you there!

30MPH IN EAST COKER!

It has been noticed that some cars, lorries and motor-cycles travel too fast whilst going through the village, thus endangering anyone who is walking, either to the school, the village shop or just for pleasure.

What is needed is a 30mph speed limit. We can have one but must find the money and in a break-down from County Hall the cost is approximately £3,500, for signs, posts, erection and legal costs and many villagers have already pledged amounts towards this.

If you wish to know more about the above, or wish to pledge an amount, please contact Rod and Mary Glover 862463

EAST COKER VILLAGE STORE

East Coker Village Store introduces Floral Corner

May we start by thanking all of our customers for their support during 2010 and over the Christmas period.

We would also like to say how nice it was to see some unfamiliar faces in the store during the period of bad weather and how nice it would be to see you again under better conditions. We hope we did not disappoint in being able to fulfil everyone's needs in those difficult times.

Back to Christmas. This year's Christmas display was once again a success and thank you to everyone who placed an order. This year was a little different because we sewed the seed for our new venture by offering flower arrangements to order for the first time. This new idea was taken up to capacity for Christmas and so the idea blossomed into a more committed approach to the venture.

Introducing 'Floral Corner @ East Coker Village Store', in short, 'Floral Corner'. During December, work took place in transforming some of the shop and store room into a dedicated florist space. From January, we will be able to offer a florist service from within the Village Store. The service will be designed to support all levels of requirements, from those personal flower arrangers who want to purchase individual stems and materials such as oasis, ribbon, baskets and vases, to those who would like to purchase a finished bouquet or arrangement. These products will be available for any occasion be it a Birthday, Anniversary, Thank You, Mothers Day, Valentines, Engagement, Wedding, Birth, Funeral or just simply 'I love you'. Local delivery will be available.

As always, we are searching for the answer to secure the long term survival of the Store and we feel that this will sit very well alongside the normal services that we provide. It will of course only work with the support of our customers, so please help us in getting this new venture established by spreading the word to family and friends. We would like to think that we are here to stay and look forward to serving the community for years to come.

Paul, Vicky, Emmalia & Lillia Moorhouse, Leigh & Elaine The team at Floral Corner and East Coker Village Store

EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL - A Happy New Year!

This will be a year of considerable change for your Parish Council – retirements from the committee prior to the **Council Elections in May** will necessitate new faces hopefully standing for election. You are invited to come along to the monthly meetings at 7.00pm on the second Wednesday of each month, at the Pavilion in Long Furlong Lane, to see how your Parish Council works and to get a taste of proceedings. There will also be government changes to local council policy which may well affect the present procedure at our meetings, including more local decision making, which could affect how we operate after the elections.

With reference to the threat of **urban expansion** inside the East Coker boundaries, the Parish Council is controlled by statutory law as to what it can and cannot do. For this reason **The East Coker Preservation Trust** has been set up outside the jurisdiction of the Parish Council to take forward the objections of the village. The Parish Council will obviously be kept informed of developments, but it is a very large, and time consuming debate which needs to be addressed away from the monthly meetings. The online site is www.eastcokerpreservationtrust.blogspot.com where information and updates will be regularly posted.

Speeding in the village still continues to be an issue. There have been complaints about the speed of traffic passing through the very narrow Burton Lane, outside the village shop, especially large vehicles and tractors in particular. Please consider pedestrians in such confined roads – large vehicles are very

intimidating and can take walkers by surprise.

The implementation of a 30mph speed limit is still under constant discussion, though the district council does not quite see it as we do....watch this space, we hope for some action in this year!

Litter Picking Day will be advertised nearer the day in late February/early March. Meanwhile, the weight of last month's snow has revealed an amazing amount of litter on banks and verges - do not wait for Litter Picking Day if you see it and can pick it up!

Please report Fly Tipping to the Council Offices at Brympton Way – they have a very efficient team to deal with such problems.

The East Coker Cricket Club reported that its playing member numbers had increased and having finished runners-up in their division, they have been promoted. It is encouraging to see the pitches being put to such good use in the summer months as well as our very successful football teams' winter use. The cricket pitch is maintained in excellent condition by the cricket club, with the voluntary team of members who put in a lot of time to keep it that way. We wish them success in the future.

****A reminder to dog walkers that lambing time has already arrived and ewes and their young lambs are grazed all over the parish. Please keep your dogs on leads and under very strict control at all times as they can cause havoc among flocks. Ewes are very protective, but cannot cope if they are worried by dogs, and they and their lambs invariably panic if approached or chased, leaving lambs vulnerable to attack by predators if separated from their mothers.

News from East Coker Parish Council

South Somerset District Council (SSDC) has identified Barwick and Keyford (East Coker) as the preferred option to establish an urban extension to Yeovil. It has identified this location in its Core Strategy. The area could expect development of 3,700 dwellings housing some 8,000 people and employment land of 57 acres employing potentially 4-6,000, a total of 155 hectares. Land at Barwick is limited due to historic parkland, proximity to the county boundary and flood zones. The prime location therefore would likely be the Keyford area of East Coker (adjacent to the heavily used A37 Dorchester Road). To achieve development of this size it may well need to extend beyond this area most likely to the West from the proposed site. This is considered to be the most important issue that will ever affect the village and it will have far reaching impact not only for the village but the communities in the south of Yeovil. As a consequence, a website has been created to publicise and be an informative tool for the residents of the East Coker Parish. Therefore, residents are encouraged to look around this website to help understand the issue, see what information is available and comprehend the enormity of this proposal and the effect it would have. It is the intention that this website will be continually updated as new material becomes available and so it is recommended that it is viewed on a periodical basis. The website address is www.eastcokerparish.com

RAINFALL DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER OF THE YEAR

Thomas Hardy wrote: "This is the weather the cuckoo likes,

And so do I" (in Weathers 1)

In the second verse (Weathers 2) he took a different view,

"This is the weather the shepherd shuns,

And so do I"

So take you pick! Since late November we have had some of the dottiest weather I have ever experienced in eighteen years at North Coker Hall.

Rainfall in the first three-quarters of 2010 was somewhat sparse – less than 20 inches (50.80cm) in total: but October and November improved matters with an exactly equal fall in each month 4¼ inches (11.43cm). December was cuckoo, if not likeably so. On the 4th/5th half-an-inch (½in 1.27cm) fell, and after that only snow until the last few days. Between the 18 and 25 December the snow-melt in my rain-gauges was just half-an-inch (½in 1.27cm) of water – whether or not a reliable measurement I cannot say – and another quarter-inch (¼in .64cm) of rain on December 27 and 29. This gave a total for the month of only 1¼ inches (3.18cm).

The year's rainfall, therefore, was the second lowest in my records at 29 inches (73.66cm), just beating the fall of 28½ inches (71.76cm) in 2003. With an annual average above 36 inches (91.44cm), the acquifers will be waiting in some anxiety for more generous libations in 2011.

As a matter of passing interest, the wettest twelve-month period in my records is April 2000 to March 2001, when a fraction above 60 inches (152.40cm) fell!

Clive Bingley

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in April 2011. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or e-mail I.lindsay@eastcoker.com or to The Stores, East Coker by Wednesday 23 March 2011.

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.

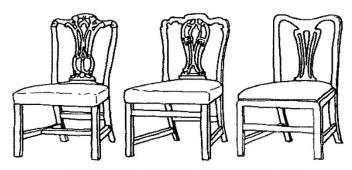
The price of a standard vegetable or fruit box is £6 or a large vegetable or fruit box is £8.30, and 5 kg sack of potatoes £2.60. If you would like to try a box please contact Sarah Palmer 862369 for more details or email sarahpalmer66@hotmail.com More information about SOL can be found on their website: www.somersetorganiclink.co.uk



VILLAGE DIARY: JANUARY 2011 – APRIL 2011

Thurs 13 Jan Thurs 20 Jan	Gardening Club – Gardening Folklore Library	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Thurs 20 Jan	W I – Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Mon 24 Jan	Time to Share – Singing Entertainment	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Thurs 27 Jan	W I – Crane Project	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 28 Jan	Coffee Morning – Help for Heroes	The Helyar Arms	10.00am -12 noon
Sat 29 Jan	Scouts' Newspaper Collection	Near the School	8.30am - 10.30am
Wed 02 Feb	Wine Circle – Ilchester Cheese Co	East Coker Hall	8.00pm
Mon 07 Feb	Time to Share – Driving Instructor	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Mon 07 Feb	The Players – Drama Workshop	East Coker Hall	7.00pm
Tues 08 Feb	WEA - First Meeting	East Coker Hall	2.30pm - 4.00pm
Thurs 10 Feb	Gardening Club – Bulbs	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Thurs 10 Feb	Library		
Sat 12 Feb	W I – Jumble Sale	East Coker Hall	2.00pm
Thurs 17 Feb	W I – Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Mon 21 Feb	Time to Share – Recycling	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Tues 22 Feb	Poetry – Poems by Bob Dylan & Keats	The Helyar Arms	7.30pm
Thurs 24 Feb	W I – Montacute House	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 26 Feb	Scouts' Newspaper Collection	Near the School	8.30am - 10.30am
Wed 02 Mar	Wine Circle – Wine Tasting	East Coker Hall	8.00pm
Thurs 03 Mar	Library		
Mon 07 Mar	Time to Share – New Zealand	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Mon 07 Mar	The Players – Plays and Casting	East Coker Hall	7.00pm
Thurs 10 Mar	Gardening Club – Propagation	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 12 Mar	The Village Quiz	East Coker Hall	7.00pm – 7.30pm
Thurs 17 Mar	W I – Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Mon 21 Mar	Time to Share – Poetry Reading	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Wed 23 Mar	Copy for April Newsletter		
Thurs 24 Mar	Library		
Sat 26 Mar	Scouts' Newspaper Collection	Near the School	8.30am - 10.30am
Thurs 31 Mar	W I – Somerset Sight	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sun 03 Apr	Mothering Sunday		
Wed 06 Apr	Wine Circle – French Evening	East Coker Hall	8.00pm
Sat 09 Apr	Wine Circle – Theme Party	East Coker Hall	7.30pm

KEN MARSH u p h o l s t e r y



ANTIQUE & MODERN FURNITURE RE-UPHOLSTERED BY SKILLED CRAFTSMEN

REPAIRS & RE-POLISHING

ALL KINDS OF SOFT FURNISHINGS MADE

Extensive choice of quality fabrics available

Free estimates & home appointments

Items collected & delivered in our own van

Telephone EAST COKER 01935 862907 or mobile 07790 759162