

East Coker Society Newsletter



JANUARY 2013

Free Issue No 149

Happy New Year!

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East Coker Society News

THANK YOU

The East Coker Society would like to thank all our distributors for the grand job you do for us in delivering the Newsletter each quarter – we really appreciate it. Also, our thanks go to Martin Wells, who organises the distribution and to Anne Bingley, who proof-reads the Newsletter before it goes to be printed. Happy New Year to you all.

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Does your household still receive a printed copy of our Newsletter? **Please** help us to reduce the increased costs of paper and printing (£650 every year) by signing up now.

Contact our Newsletter Editor by email at l.lindsay@eastcoker.com giving your full name and postal address so that your details can be removed from our delivery list. Email addresses are secure and will not be disclosed to anyone else. It will also help your local distributor. Thank you.

Sarah Owen

WINTER FAYRE 2012

Even though the Winter Fayre on 10 November 2012 was held earlier than in previous years, it did not seem to make a difference to either the request for stalls or the attendance. The excellent variety of stalls presented a unique opportunity for Christmas shopping right on your doorstep. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this such an enjoyable and successful event which raised £889.

DIAMOND JUBILEE PHOTOS NOW AVAILABLE

The Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Summer 2012 may seem to be a distant memory, but we have a wonderful photographic record of East Coker families outside their homes. We are very grateful to the team of photographers who made this possible and we hope you saw the results at our Village Exhibition or at the Winter Fayre.

CDs of the complete set or individual photos are available at £5 from Pauline Dagnall Tel 864206 or email pomod@btinternet.com Please provide your name, address, email and phone number. Cheques payable to East Coker Society.

Sarah Owen

VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY – PLEASE USE IT!

The 2013 Diary is now at the Stores, East Coker, and can be found in the shop – please ask. **Please put forthcoming village events in the Diary to avoid dates clashing.** Thank you.

www.eastcoker.com

Village Clubs and Organisations

EAST COKER VILLAGE QUIZ 2013

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 9 March in East Coker Hall, 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Last year, The Early Train 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.

TIME TO SHARE

A great variety of interesting Monday afternoons awaits us in 2013. Please come along. It's great fun and you don't have to have grey hair!

Monday 14 January	Historical Dancing – dancing display to reconstruct dances from 1450 to about 1850
Monday 28 January	Icelandic Talk – Annette Beardsley. Come and see Annette's wonderful photos
Monday 11 February	Sing-along with Sandra and Alison with Quiz – speaks for itself
Monday 25 February	Behind the Microphone – John Burgess a much travelled sports commentator
Monday 11 March	Church Bells talk by Roger Fox – Ding Dong
Monday 25 March	Easter Fair and Bazaar

EAST COKER MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

Last year was another successful year for the coffee mornings, with a grand total of £4198 being donated to the charities which were supported, and on whose behalf we thank all who came to the events and contributed so generously. We would also like to say a big thank-you to Matt and his team at the Helyar Arms for hosting the events for the year.

Sadly, Matt has informed us that the Helyar will not be able to continue providing the venue for the coffee mornings. As we already have another full year of bookings from various charities, including some regulars and some new ones for 2013, we are delighted to tell you that the Forester's Arms, Holywell has generously offered to host the events for the foreseeable future.

The November charity, Children in Need, was the first one which was held there. It was a great success, with many of our regular supporters coming to the new venue – many thanks to all at the Forester's for helping so enthusiastically to make this a very enjoyable morning. Looking to the future, to make it worthwhile holding these events it is vital that we have your continued support for all the causes to which you have generously contributed over the years.

So please come along to the Foresters for these monthly get-togethers which support deserving causes and also provide an opportunity to meet friends.

The next events, which all start at 10.00am, are

- Friday 25 January – Help for Heroes.
- Friday 22 February – RNLI
- Friday 22 March – Cystic Fibrosis NB – earlier date due to Easter at end of March

We look forward to seeing you then.

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313 Penny Marpole 863055

GOSPEL MINISTRIES' SCHOOL

Almost £700 was handed to the School in Hout Bay, Cape Town – the result of the October Coffee Morning at the Helyar Arms and a few kind donations.

The money was sent straight away to pay for two teachers for the month of December. We spoke to the teachers and watched the children having their lessons before lunch. It was heart-warming.

Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity. Sandra

CHILDREN IN NEED – CHARITY COFFEE MORNING

Many thanks to all those who attended, or donated separately, to support this worthwhile charity for UK children.

A special thanks to Lisa, Charlotte and David for stepping in at the last moment and allowing us to use the Forester's Arms as the new venue. The total raised was £316 which considering the change of venue and cold weather, was surprisingly high.

Don and Barbs Nicol

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER

The East/West Coker Branch of the Royal British Legion held their annual Coffee Morning at East Coker Hall on Saturday 6 October 2012. The committee would like to thank all members, friends and families for attending this very successful event. A special thank-you to all who donated raffle prizes and a wonderful selection of cakes and produce. Special thanks to our team of helpers on the day. The sum of £300 was raised for the Poppy Appeal. At this particular time of Remembrance, we are especially grateful to you all.

Poppy Appeal 2012 – our House to House and Static collections in the five village areas covered is up over £300 on 2011. Special thanks to all collectors, shops and businesses (who had static boxes) and to all our supporters who donated so generously to this worthy cause. With a couple more cheques to come in, our overall total for 2012 will be just over £6,600. This is about £400 down on last year.

Some of you may not be aware but in 2011 we had a wonderful donation of £500 from Yeo Vale Rotary Club. Their President at the time was the late Dr Tony Simmonds, and a Rotary event was held in East Coker Hall when it was Tony's wish that part of the proceeds be donated to the Poppy Appeal. The donation remains a very fitting legacy to a much loved person.

Remembrance Sunday – all services were very well attended. My thanks to the Standard Bearers, Buglers and to all who assisted in the organisation and refreshments at the various churches and memorial.

A special thank-you to the Scouts, Guides and Brownies and their leaders who attended services at East Chinnock and East Coker churches and the short service at West Coker Memorial. It's very encouraging to see the next generation taking a fuller role in services as our veteran's age.

Donations – The Branch will be making the following donations at the RBL Somerset County Conference in January: County Welfare £200, Somerset Legion House £100, Dunkirk Memorial Home £100.

Events – Annual Cheese & Wine Evening Friday 27 April, East Coker Hall, 7.30pm.

Thank you all for your continued support. David Holland, Chairman – 862782

EAST COKER READING GROUP

We have two Groups meeting once a month. The evening group (currently 8 members) meets in individual members' homes for about two hours (usually) on the first Tuesday of each month. The daytime group (currently 5 members) meet for about one hour in the East Coker Tea Rooms on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month (but meeting dates do vary to accommodate members' other commitments). As the Library now charges Reading Groups a monthly fee, we, in turn, charge a fee of 50p to each member.

If you are interested in joining either group or wish to have more details of the books we read and what we do, please do contact Kevin Chapman on 07812726853 or 422594 or email ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk

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EAST COKER SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

The Bowls Club meets every **Tuesday Evening** 7.30pm - 9.30pm and **Friday Afternoons** 2.30pm - 4.30pm in the East Coker Hall.

We are a friendly club and are looking for experienced and new players to join us. Tuition can be given to those wishing it, and bowls can be provided for your initial practice. Why not come and see for yourself. There is no age limit for adults.

We also have a junior section and are looking for young players of any age up to 18.

For information regarding the junior section, please contact Mervyn Westlake 863227. For other information, call George Dudden 864222.

M Westlake – Club Chairman

EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

The Gardening Club has enjoyed another successful year, commencing with roses in January and ending the year with a most enjoyable evening answering questions for the Christmas Quiz. During the last three months, we have had a talk on designing gardens, enjoyed a meal and game of skittles following the AGM held at the Quicksilver Mail, and dug deep for answers to the questions put to the teams for the quiz at the meeting in December.

2013 promises more delights, commencing in January with a talk by Alison and Nigel Charles on more butterflies and flowers in Europe – we have already had several talks given by Alison and have thoroughly enjoyed them. In February, we can look forward to 'Grandma's Garden' by Yvonne Bell, and in March to the second part of 'Folklore' by Mike Burks of the Gardens Group.

Trips are planned in May to Picket Lane Nursery at South Perrott, in June to the Larmer Tree at Tollard Royal and in July to Wilton House, Salisbury. As usual, there will be a short holiday, which will be based this year in Torquay.

If you are not already a member, why not join us for one of our evenings? Always an enjoyable, sociable evening, with the added bonus that we learn something new each month. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, commencing at 7.30pm in the East Coker Hall. For further information, please contact Helen Styles 862447 or Stan Shayler 420291.

Programme for January – April

Thursday 10 January	More butterflies and flowers in Europe – Alison and Nigel Charles
Thursday 14 February	Grandma's Garden – Yvonne Bell
Thursday 14 March	2 nd part of folklore – Mike Burks, The Gardens Group
Thursday 11 April	In pursuit of plants – Lady Skelmersdale

SAVE EAST COKER

The past three months have seen continued success in fundraising for the campaign to save East Coker from the threat of South Somerset District Council's plan to build a 2500 house Urban Extension of Yeovil within our parish boundary.

The fundraising events have included an Auction of Promises, a Posh Bric-a-Brac stall at the Winter Fayre, a Coffee Morning at the Helyar Arms, a Musical Evening and Banquet at Coker Court, a share of the proceeds from the Village Christmas Lunch, plus contributions from several events generously organised by individuals in their own homes. Many thanks to all those who put so much effort into making all these events a great success. Together, the proceeds from these events have enabled us to continue building the fighting fund in readiness for the legal challenges which we will need to make during the forthcoming year.

Planning Inspector's Examination of SSDC's Proposed Local Plan, and possibly thereafter.

This phase of our campaign could become very costly so we will need to maintain the fundraising momentum in 2013. Please watch for announcements of new events, and continue to give your generous support. Any ideas for new initiatives will be most welcome.

Since October, SSDC has been trying to update and modify its Plan to make it conform to the requirements of the Planning Inspectorate, whilst attempting to overcome objections which were submitted during the public consultation. The recently announced postponement of the consideration of the Plan by Full Council is clear evidence of the poor quality of the preparatory work which should have been done by SSDC.

The Council has also reverted to its previous policy of secrecy regarding the considerations of the Project Management Board, and it has decided to withhold all reports on changes to the Plan until the last possible legal date – it will now publish these reports (which may have crucial public significance) only five days before the 17 January Full Council meeting – another fine example of democracy at work in South Somerset!

This means that the Council will now debate the proposed changes to the Plan at the Full Council meeting scheduled for 6.00pm on 17 January. If the amendments are endorsed, the Plan will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate probably within two weeks from then, say 1 February. If this happens without any unforeseen problems, then the Examination could start by mid-May and end in early June. The Planning Inspector might then submit his report to the Council by early August. The SSDC would then consider how to proceed from there, possibly adopting the plan by October/November.

It should be noted that this is a **possible** timetable of events which assumes that all goes smoothly and according to plan – not something which SSDC has demonstrated as one of its core competencies so far! If the Inspector calls for significant changes to the Plan, this could mean a further period of public consultation, adding another possible six months. The Plan would not then be finalised until early 2014.

We will do our best to keep you updated on developments, but as a next step please come to the Full Council meeting on 17 January to demonstrate East Coker's continuing objection to SSDC's Plan – 6.00pm at the Council Offices, Brympton Way.

ECPT contacts:

Joe Coles 863146

Martyn Sowerbutts 863313

Richard Vanderpump 864565

Peter Woodford 863633

John Fysh 863963

Sandra Snelling 862162

POSH BRIC-A-BRAC

A huge thank you to all who supported the 'Posh Bric-a-Brac' in aid of 'Save East Coker', at the Winter Fayre, both the generous donors who gave a large and fascinating selection of items and the many purchasers who ensured the project's success. In excess £1,900 has been raised to date, and we hope that the items still in hand will push this figure a little higher.

THE EAST COKER BULK OIL PURCHASE SCHEME

This year's fill-up in July/August was a third up on last year's – 60,280 litres in 66 drops. The price of heating oil was between 50p and 55p per litre for 1000 litres in the summer. It is seasonal and rose from 61p to 66p between 1 and the 20 December. Today (2 January) it's back to 60p.

I shall be co-ordinating a top-up at the end of January unless the weather plays tricks on us and the price rises absurdly. In that case I would recommend postponing it for a month.

For anyone new to it, the scheme operates as follows:

- You let me know how much oil you require. If you want your tank filled, calculate how much you need and order 100 litres extra, the driver will stop when the tank is full. 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. The delivery drivers are resourceful and assume they can find and fill a tank in the customer's absence. You must tell me if this is not the case (eg locked gates or tanks)
- 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, which is the same for everyone irrespective of quantity. I endeavour to tell everyone the delivery date.
- The supplier delivers the oil and invoices everyone individually. Please note that with some suppliers the delivery note is also the request for payment and there may be a surcharge if you don't pay promptly.
- You pay the supplier directly.

If you have already taken part and found it worthwhile, encourage your friends and neighbours to join in. There are now little cells in some parts of the village. The more we can order, the better the price. You also avoid the price penalty for ordering less than 1000 litres by being part of the scheme.

To participate or with any questions, contact me, preferably by email pauledwards@waitrose.com or 864413. Email makes it much easier to circulate information and I do not divulge email addresses. Please let me know your requirements by 7.00pm on Wednesday 30 January.

Paul Edwards

EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

Tuesday 29 January Poetry Group Dinner

Keep this date clear in your diary – Contact Amelia Bennett for details and to book for the dinner on 423894 or email lameliabennett@hotmail.co.uk

Tuesday 26 February Elaine Beckett

Elaine Beckett recently won the Bridport Prize's **Dorset Award**. She has attended a master class at Ty Nwydd with the poet laureate, Carol Ann Duffy and the Welsh laureate, Gillian Clarke; has given readings in Bridport and Cattistock and at the New Art Gallery in Walsall and has a background in music and film. She has contributed poems to the Ty Nwydd anthology *Taking Tea with Taliesen*.

For more information about the East Coker Poetry Group, contact David Cloke – Group Co-ordinator, 862623. Email – info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk Website – www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk

EAST COKER PLAYERS

A Happy New Year to you all

What a terrific time we all had with our successful pantomime 'Mother Goose'. After all the hard work put in during the rehearsals, it was lovely to see old and new faces in our growing audience getting involved in cheering the good guys and booing the villains. The Players would like to thank everyone who supported us and especially those who helped behind the scenes.

During our Friday performance, we presented Ces Turner with an honorary membership in recognition of the many years' service to the group as he was unable to attend our skittles evening. At that evening, we presented Arthur Rees, Don White and Nora White with honorary membership, and made a presentation to Hazel Giddings for 25 years' membership of the Players.

At the moment we are in the early stages of planning our next production, a play, which will be directed by Ian White, on Friday 16 and Saturday 17 May 2013. Further details will be posted on notice-boards. We welcome anyone interested in joining us on stage or behind the scenes for the May play or our December pantomime. Contact us on the numbers below.

Sadly, we end on a sombre note as we mourn the passing of our friend and pianist, Kathleen Jackson, who died on 17 December 2012. Kath joined the Players in 1989, for the pantomime Aladdin, giving her final performance, due to failing health, in 2007 with Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We will all remember her as a lovely lady and a wonderfully talented pianist.

Anne Hartley 862060 Hazel Giddings 429163

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EAST COKER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Having completed an interesting and varied programme and welcomed several new members last year, we start our new programme on Thursday 31 January. Always mindful of the possibility of difficult travelling conditions during the winter months a speaker from Yeovilton has agreed to tell members about the Fleet Air Arm Museum. This will be followed in February by the explanation of the work of a Police Community Support Officer. We shall be holding our Annual Jumble Sale on Saturday, 9 February at 2.00pm at the East Coker Hall. In March, members are being introduced to the art of hedgerow basketry.

Due to a directive from the National W.I. Federation, all Women's Institutes are now required to hold their AGMs in April. To make this occasion a little more attractive, we have planned a social time with wine and cheese.

Our popular whist drive evenings will be continued on the third Thursday of each month at the East Coker Hall. We always welcome anyone interested in joining to come and give us a try. For any further information, please contact secretary, Ruby Rollo on 475010.

Diary dates

Thursday 17 January	Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 31 January	The Fleet Air Arm	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Saturday 9 February	Jumble Sale	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 21 February	Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 28 February	Work of a PCSO	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 21 March	Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 28 March	Hedgerow basketry	7.30pm	Christian Fellowship Hall
Thursday 18 April	Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 25 April	AGM and social evening	7.30pm	East Coker Hall

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EAST COKER TEA-ROOMS

Ann, Marilyn, Penny 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 also have a 'Book swap' in the Tearooms, you may borrow a book, or just sit and read it with a cup of coffee and one of the delicious cakes! 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.

Saturday 26 January Saturday 23 February Saturday 30 March

Jumble Sales Spring - Saturday 20 April. Autumn – Saturday 12 October. East Coker Hall from 2.00pm. **Remember we will collect.** Contact Max Bugler 862186

EAST COKER PLAYGROUP – find us on www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk

Thank you to everyone who supported the Playgroup's annual Craft Fair in November, £800 was raised.

December was a busy time for the Playgroup. There was a lot to make to go under the Christmas tree and cards to produce to sit on the window sill, as well as all the usual fun activities. We were excited to be invited to see the East Coker Primary School infant production and we all enjoyed the acting and singing, a fabulous performance. Speaking of performances, the children at playgroup were busy rehearsing themselves. They took part in their own wonderful Nativity show much to the delight of the parents and carers present. The end of term included a visit from Father Christmas, much to the enjoyment of the children. Father Christmas even had time in his busy schedule to stay over lunch time and talk with the children. Something I guess a lot of children will remember for a long time. The celebrations are over and the spring term about to start, and East Coker Playgroup would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

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 Early Years Entitlement is available in the funding period after their third birthday. We are open during term time with sessions every week day morning, and afternoon sessions on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and optional lunch cover for children who like to bring a packed lunch.

If you are seeking childcare for your 2 year old, East Chinnock Under Fives playgroup accepts children from their 2nd birthday to starting school. For the past few years, the staff at East Coker Playgroup also staff East Chinnock Under Fives playgroup, both playgroups feed into East Coker Primary School. This began when East Chinnock Under Fives playgroup was threatened with closure due to staff shortages, and it has worked to the benefit of both groups, each maintaining their own committee and identity. East Chinnock Under Fives playgroup is a smaller group and this can be a great benefit to the younger children. The opening times are term time with sessions every week day morning and an afternoon session on Thursday, with optional lunch cover for children who like to bring a packed lunch. Find us at www.eastchinnockunder5spreschool.co.uk

For more information and to put your child/children on the waiting list, please contact Kay Strode on 07798 812540.

The Churches

ST. MICHAEL'S

As the New Year gets underway, there are some important developments to mention. St Michael's now has a website as a means of accessing information about the church and forthcoming activities. Our thanks go to Emmanuel Kitson for his skill in putting it together. The site has details about services and church groups, as well as a picture gallery and notes about the church's history, etc. The address is www.eastcokerchurch.org.uk or simply Google: East Coker church. Why not pay a visit and take a look!

December saw the launch of our new Sunday School which meets in church on the second Sunday of each month at 10.30am. Children leave the service in the first hymn to have their own class in the vestry for stories and activities, and then re-join the Service later. Judging by the smiling faces on week 1 – and beautifully decorated gingerbread figures – things got off to a flying start.

We heard in December that the proposed scheme to unite the two Benefices of East and West Coker has been approved. We are, however, still awaiting word as to when the legalities will be concluded and the scheme will come into effect. When it does, the Rev'd David Wilson will be licensed as the Rector of all seven churches in what will be called the Coker Ridge Benefice, and I shall continue to assist with services and pastoral care primarily in the eastern side of the new Benefice. The churchwardens of all seven churches have been meeting informally to prepare for the change for some time now. It will be good to get things under way.

With all good wishes for the year ahead. The Rev'd Charles Hatton.

Services

Sunday 13 January	8.00am Holy Communion	10.30am – Sung Eucharist
Sunday 20 January	10.00am Sung Eucharist	6.00pm – Evensong
Sunday 27 January	10.30am Sung Eucharist	6.00pm – Evensong
Sunday 3 February	10.30am Family Leaflet	6.00pm – Evensong
Sunday 10 February	8.00am Holy Communion	10.30am – Sung Eucharist
Ash Wednesday 13 February		
Sunday 17 February	10.00am Sung Eucharist	6.00pm – Evensong
Sunday 24 February	10.30am Sung Eucharist	6.00pm – Evensong
Sunday 3 March	10.30am Family Eucharist	6.00pm – Evensong
Mothering Sunday 10 March	8.00am Holy Communion	10.30am – Sung Eucharist
Sunday 17 March	10.00am Sung Eucharist	6.00pm – Evensong
Palm Sunday 24 March	10.30am Sung Eucharist	6.00pm – Evensong
Good Friday 29 March	12.00pm – Service	
Easter Sunday 31 March	10.30am – Family Eucharist or Sung Eucharist	TBA

There is a lunch at the Helyar Arms on the first Sunday in each month at £5 a head for one course.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – 1 March at 2.00pm at St Michael's Church.

Each year on the first Friday in March, women throughout the World hold a wave of prayer. Last year the women of Malaysia compiled the service and the theme was Let Justice Prevail. This year the women of

France have compiled the service and St Michael's Church has been asked to host the service for the Churches in this area including those in our joint benefice. The Chinnocks and Norton Prebendary, Rose Hoskins has agreed to preach. Rose is already well known to many of us, having worked as a Reader in the area before her ordination.

The service is an ecumenical one and everybody is welcome, both men and women. It will last about an hour and be followed by tea.

For further details please phone me on 862834 Monica.

ADVANCE NOTICE – SPRING FAIR AND PLANT SALE – 11 MAY 2013

St Michael's will be holding a Spring Fair and Plant Sale on Saturday 11 May at Hope House (formerly BubsPOOL House). Stalls will include Plants!! As well as Cakes, Produce, Bottle Tombola and Fair Trade Goods. More details early next year; in the meantime, please contact Christine Vince, 863429. Any child who draws an A4 picture of a plant can bring their picture to the Fair and receive a sunflower seed in a pot, to grow on at home.

Gardeners – please grow some plants for the Fair and bring them along.

Marmalade makers – please make an extra pot (or two) for the Produce stall.

ALL SAINTS' SUTTON BINGHAM

Services

Sunday 20 January	11.30am Holy Communion	Sunday 17 February	11.30am Holy Communion
Sunday 3 March	9.00am Holy Communion	Sunday 17 March	11.30am Holy Communion

ALL SAINTS' CLOSWORTH

Services

At the Family Service on 20 January at 10.00am I will be telling that lovely story of The Other Wise Man

Sunday 13 January Evensong at 6.30pm – The Revelation of the Magi

Sunday 27 January Communion at 9.00am

Sunday 10 February Evensong at 6.30pm

Sunday 17 February Family Service at 10.00am

Sunday 24 February Communion at 9.00am

Sunday 10 March Evensong at 6.30pm (Please note Mothering Sunday will be celebrated the following week).

Sunday 17 March Family Mothering Sunday at 10.00am

Sunday 24 March Palm Sunday Communion at 9.00am

Good Friday 29 March All Ages Good Friday Service at 10.00am followed by Cold Cross Buns

Easter Day 31 March Communion at 9.00am TBC.

For further details please phone me on 862834 Monica.

EAST COKER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, BURTON LANE

Weekly Meetings. Sundays Services 11.00am. 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. There are usually some 10-14 present. 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 **Home Groups** on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for anyone who may be interested in discussing the Christian faith, and there is a youth group meeting midweek for those between 18 and 30.

Men's Breakfast. 8.30am on the first Saturday of the month (excluding January) we hold a Men's Breakfast at the chapel.

Little Wheelers. Mother and Toddler Group meeting at the East Coker Hall each Tuesday (during term time) from 10.30am – 12.00pm.

Kevin Chapman is available from Tuesday to Friday. He can be contacted on 07812726853 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. Alternatively you may wish to look at our website on www.eastcokerchapel.co.uk

'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.

BIBLE MID-WEEK MEETINGS – A series in Exodus

Wednesday 16 January, 7.00pm – Brian Ruff – I have come down – Exodus 3:1-5

Wednesday 20 February, 7.00pm – Tim Lewis, – I have remembered my covenant – Exodus 6:1-8

Wednesday 20 March, 7.00pm – Doug Johnson – I will pass over you – Exodus 12:1-13

Wednesday 17 April, 7.00pm – Doug Johnson – I am the Lord – Exodus 14:5-18

These meetings will take place in the East Coker Hall. Do join us and bring your friends. Refreshments are served after each meeting. For further details, please contact Edward Armitstead 862785 or Roy Hodder 862519

Village News

WEA EAST COKER BRANCH – Sociology and Society

Six meetings cost £31 – from Tuesday 12 February, at the East Coker Hall. 2.30pm – 4.00pm. Tutor Terence Hunt. Enquiries to Sarah Smith 862466.

STAMPS FOR C.L.I.C. (Cancer & Leukaemia in Children)

Please save all your Christmas cards and parcel stamps and drop them into Vicki at the Stores. They will then be taken into the C.L.I.C. Charity shop in Yeovil. They are reused to make money for this charity, which funds vital research into childhood cancers.

SOMERSET CHAMBER CHOIR CONCERT – GREAT BRITAIN – GREAT BRITTEN!

Somerset Chamber Choir stages a concert of inspirational British music at King's College Chapel, Taunton on Sunday 17 February 2013 at 3.00pm.

Celebrating the centenary of Benjamin Britten's birth, the concert showcases an engaging selection of works by Britten alongside music by Elgar, Grainger, Parry, Stanford, Vaughan Williams and Walton. With the outstanding young tenor, Greg Tassell, Richard Pearce (organ & piano) and conductor Graham Caldbeck.

Tickets from Taunton TIC: 01823 336344 or book online at www.somersetchamberchoir.org.uk

SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY

The mobile library route for East Coker is Tuesdays, every 4 weeks, from 2.30pm – 2.50pm at Helyar Arms, and Mill Close 2.55pm – 3.10pm Further information from Libraries Direct 0845 3459177 or www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries

22 January 19 February 19 March 16 April

EAST COKER IN THE ENGLISH CIVIL WARS 1640 – 1660

Nick Whitsun-Jones (who lives in the Parish) is researching how the Civil Wars affected the people of East Coker, both gentry and the 'ordinary' people. Nominally East Coker was Royalist, as the squire at the time, Colonel Helyar of Coker Court, was a strong supporter of the King and suffered as a result; he was fined £1,522 by Parliament, a vast sum in those days. Yeovil was for Parliament, which must have caused some stresses and strains on local relationships between town and village, e.g. going to market to sell produce. Nick's maternal family, the Harrisons, lived in East Coker for many centuries, including the Civil Wars. He

will be very grateful to hear from anyone who has any information (including family histories) on this period, specifically as it relates to East Coker and the surrounding area.

He is particularly interested in a reference he has found in state papers to an Edmund Ludlow as follows: *'May 31 [1640]. Whitehall. 108. Council warrant to Thomas Welch, messenger, for bringing up before the Board Edmund Ludlow, of East Coker, and Benjamin Giles, of Preston-Plucknett, co. Somerset. [Minute. 1/3.* Nick would also love to know more about Ludlow, particularly if he was the same Edmund Ludlow who was one of the signatories of the King's death warrant and a leading republican. This Ludlow did not come from East Coker but he had a sister, Elizabeth, married to a Giles Penny, son of William Penny of East Coker. However, there was also someone called Edmund Ludlow who did come from East Coker and if the warrant relates to him, then what had he been up to?

Nick can be contacted at whitsun1jones@gmail.com

EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

Here are the main points from the work of the Parish Council since the last newsletter in October.

Somerset County Council Electoral Review – from County Councillor Cathy Bakewell

In June 2012, the Local Government Boundary Commission published their review of the electoral arrangements for the Somerset County Council. They reduced the number of Councillors from 59 to 55. The average number of electorates in each division will rise from 7,615 in 2011 to 8,137 by 2017. No account was taken of any proposed developments in any area unless a planning application had actually been submitted. In the Coker division, pleas for the inclusion of the Wraxhill part of East Coker civil parish and the Sampsons Wood part of the West Coker civil parish to be included in the county division were ignored. The Commissioners visited the area and felt both areas “clearly form part of the urban Yeovil”. This view had been strongly expressed by Yeovil Town Council during this review and the previous review. This may have implications when the Town Council electoral boundaries are next reviewed. There is no prospect of this in the immediate future, but it is something to watch. The new Coker County division now includes the villages of Montacute and Norton-sub-Hamdon. This brings the number of electors up from 7739 in 2011 to 7807 in 2017 which is a -4% variance from the average.

Parish Councillor

We currently have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. For more details and to apply, please contact the Parish Clerk, clerk@eastcokerpc1.wanadoo.co.uk or 01935 862062.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council has successfully secured government funding for support from 'Locality' consultants to advise on the process and detail of Neighbourhood Planning. Representatives of the Parish Council met with Andy Foyne and Dave Norris of SSDC and decisions will be taken concerning consultation with parishioners and how best to proceed. We are looking at options to make an application to initiate the process of writing this community-led plan. To learn more, please contact the Parish Clerk clerk@eastcokerpc1.wanadoo.co.uk or 862062. We will be writing to all parishioners in the New Year with more details.

Lengthsman Scheme

The Lengthsman scheme, which has served the parish for many years, is to be replaced with a similar scheme called the Community Warden scheme. Our existing Lengthsman, Richard, retires in March 2013 and a new Community Warden will then be recruited. The scheme enables us to carry out minor tasks around the parish and is funded from local rates with grants towards training and equipment from the Somerset County Council.

Notice board

A new notice board has been positioned in Lower Wraxhill Road and this will improve the presentation of Parish Council communications.

Pavilion and Recreation Ground

The Parish Council is exploring the possibility of making more improvements to the Pavilion and sports stores. Funding has been sought, but not yet secured. Further discussion and research will be undertaken before work is begun. Discussions have been held concerning the possibility of purchasing more land adjacent to the Recreation Ground. However, the purchase cost and subsequent funding demands have made this unachievable.

Youth Services Review Group

From April 2014, Somerset County Council will withdraw Youth Service provision from the Yeovil area. Councillor Kath Wilson has been attending a group comprising parish and town councils to investigate the

possibility of jointly funding a youth provision. It is hoped that a Needs Assessment will be carried out early in 2013 to investigate if there is a need within the Parish. If anybody (especially young people aged 11 - 16 years) has a view on what provision might be needed, or how that could be achieved, please contact Kath on 475029 or e-mail kath.wilson@sky.com

Tree Planting

Councillor Binny Bennett has been busy supporting the WI in their kind purchase and planting of a Mulberry tree in the Paddock. Binny has also been grateful for the donation of saplings to be planted around the lower boundary of the Recreation Ground.

Binny reports that **Chalara ash dieback disease** is affecting woodland in Britain. The disease is not harmful to people or animals but it can kill ash trees.

How to spot symptoms of ash dieback – the main symptoms are

- dead branches
- blackening of leaves which often hang on the tree
- discoloured stems often in a diamond-shape where a leaf was attached.

If you see these symptoms, please

- double check them at the website: www.forestry.gov.uk/chalara
- report them to the helpline: 08459 335577

To help stop the disease spreading

- before visiting other places, clean mud and leaves from footwear, pushchairs, bikes, cars, dogs and horses
- do not remove leaves, plants or wood from this area.

The Parish Councillors wish everybody a peaceful and happy festive season and a healthy and prosperous 2013.

Councillor Kath Wilson on behalf of the Parish Council

EAST COKER RAINFALL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2012

Bereft as I am of recently discovered literary quotations relating to the past year's rainfall, I thought you might be interested in the curiously unreliable downfalls we have had which aggregate to a total number of inches/centimetres month by month. Thus:

January 2¼in (5.7cm)	February ¾in (1.9cm)
March 1¼in (3.2cm)	April (first of the really damp months) 7¼in (18.4cm)
May (back to drizzles) 2in (5cm)	June 5¼in (13.3cm)
July 5½in (13cm)	August 5¼in (13.3cm)
September 2in (5cm)	October 6in (15.2cm)
November 8in (20.3cm)	December 5¾in (14.6cm)

The whole total being 51¾in (131.5cm). 50+ inches (127cm) is very significantly above the annual average since the mid-1990s, which fell consistently at 36 inches (91.5cm) until lesser totals were recorded in 2010 and 2011. What does all this simple arithmetic represent? If nothing else, the fascination of natural phenomena when it comes to trivialities.

Predictably, South Somerset District Council has taken no steps to dissolve the several quite large swimming-pools which have formed along the lanes across the Showground and elsewhere between East Coker and Stoford. They may care to know that Grade 1 arable meadows alongside the Dorchester Road have, in the recent heavy rains, become more fitted for water-sports than the eruption of housing.

Clive Bingley

EASTER BINGO

Following the success of the Christmas Bingo we are holding an Easter Bingo on Friday 22 March 2013, at East Coker Hall, 7.00pm for 7.15pm start. In order to continue fundraising for Annabelle Rashley's volunteer trip to Africa.

Thank you to everyone who came and supported the Christmas Bingo we raised about £500.

All welcome to come and have fun at the Easter Bingo, see you there.



FIRST AID COURSE 14 JANUARY 2013

6.00pm – 9.00pm at The Pavilion, Long Furlong Lane, East Coker

Cost £15 per person

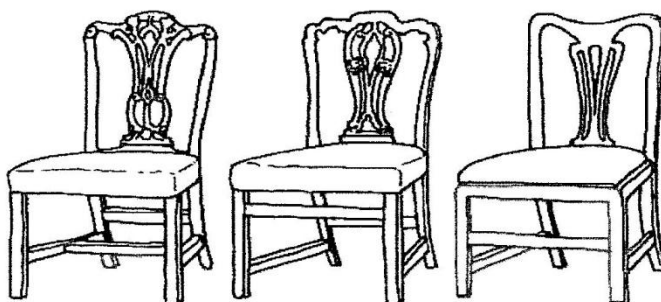
Come along and learn basic life support, management of the unconscious casualty, recognition and initial treatment for heart attacks and strokes and treatment of minor injuries such as bleeding and burns.

To book a place on the course visit our website www.lightningtrainingsolutions.co.uk or email rod@lightningtrainingsolutions.co.uk or telephone 473575 or 07910407443

BRITISH SUMMER TIME begins Sunday 31 March – clocks go forward one hour.

KEN MARSH

u p h o l s t e r y



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NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **April 2013**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or e-mail l.lindsay@eastcoker.com or to The Stores, East Coker by **Thursday 21 March 2013**. Thank you.

QUARTERLY VILLAGE DIARY: JANUARY 2013 – MARCH 2013

Thur 10 Jan	Gardening Club – Butterflies & Flowers	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Mon 14 Jan	Time to Share – Historical Dancing	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Mon 14 Jan	First Aid Course	The Pavilion	6.00pm - 9.00pm
Thur 17 Jan	Save East Coker Meeting	SSDC Offices	6.00pm
Thur 17 Jan	W.I. – Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Tues 22 Jan	Library		
Fri 25 Jan	Coffee Morning – Help for Heroes	Foresters, Holywell	10.00am - 12.00pm
Sat 26 Jan	Scout Group – Waste Paper	Near the School	8.30am - 10.30am
Mon 28 Jan	Time to Share – Icelandic Talk	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Tues 29 Jan	Poetry Group – Group Dinner	Helyar Arms	
Thur 31 Jan	W.I. – Fleet Air Arm Talk	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 9 Feb	W.I. – Jumble Sale	East Coker Hall	2.00pm
Mon 11 Feb	Time to Share – Sing-a-long	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Thur 14 Feb	Gardening Club – Grandma's Garden	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Tues 19 Feb	Library		
Thur 21 Feb	W.I. – Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 22 Feb	Coffee Morning – RNLI	Foresters, Holywell	10.00am - 12.00pm
Sat 23 Feb	Scout Group – Waste Paper	Near the School	8.30am - 10.30am
Mon 25 Feb	Time to Share – John Burgess	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Tues 26 Feb	Poetry Group – Elaine Beckett	Helyar Arms	7.30pm
Thur 28 Feb	W.I. – Work of Police S O	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 1 Mar	Women's Day of Prayer	St Michael's	2.00pm
Sat 9 Mar	Village Quiz	East Coker Hall	7.00pm - 7.30pm
Mon 11 Feb	Time to Share – Church Bells	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Thur 14 Mar	Gardening Club – Folklore	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Tues 19 Mar	Library		
Thur 21 Mar	Copy for April Newsletter		
Thur 21 Mar	W.I. – Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 22 Mar	Easter Bingo	East Coker Hall	7.00pm - 7.30pm
Fri 22 Mar	Coffee Morning – Cystic Fibrosis	Foresters, Holywell	10.00am - 12.00pm
Mon 25 Mar	Time to Share – Easter Fair & Bazaar	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Thur 28 Mar	W.I. – Hedgerow Basketry	Christian Fellowship Hall	7.30pm
Sat 30 Mar	Scout Group – Waste Paper	Near the School	8.30am - 10.30am
Sun 31 Mar	British Summer Time Begins		