

East Coker Society Newsletter



January 2015

Free Issue No 157

Happy New Year!

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Secretary: Sarah Owen	862218	
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East Coker Society News

A very big thank you to all the distributors who deliver the paper copies of the Newsletter, and we hope that their job will be reduced by further email take up, as we strive to deal with increased printing costs.

The Annual Winter Fayre was held on 25 October 2014, and was well supported, raising £811 for our funds. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this event so successful.

As you will read below, we are very sorry to hear that the Village Store is closing in February. Vicky and Paul Moorhouse have provided a valuable community service, and it is a disappointment that East Coker is unable to ensure its ongoing viability. We are very grateful of all their help and support to both the Society and the Parish over the years, and wish them every success with their future initiatives.

FUTURE NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION

In the October 2014 issue, we made an appeal for our readers to convert to email or to make contact indicating a positive wish to continue receiving a paper copy. This was due to the excessive increase in printing costs, which has to be generated through fund-raising. Thank you to the 16 people who responded and to the few individuals and organisations who have made contributions. We are still none the wiser about the remaining 550 households, who continue to receive a copy. It is not too late to either

- Receive your copy by email instead of a paper copy. Please contact Lesley Lindsay at l.lindsay@eastcoker.com giving your full name and postal address.
- If you have no other option than receiving a paper copy and wish to continue receiving the Newsletter, please contact Sarah Owen Tel 862218 providing your full name and postal address.

All personal details are secure and will not be disclosed to anyone else. Please act now!

VISIT TO SOMERSET HERITAGE CENTRE

Last year, East Coker Society was contacted by Somerset Heritage Service about the Helyar and Walker-Heneage-Button family archives which are held at the centre in Taunton. These collections are of major national significance and consist of over 2,500 items dating from the early 13th through to the early 20th Centuries. They are of particular significance to the history of East Coker and are being considered for transfer into public ownership. Grants from national and local organisations are being sought to safeguard the collection and to ensure they remain in Somerset.

If you would like to find out more about these archives, we have the opportunity of an organised visit to the Somerset Heritage Centre. Please contact Sarah Owen Tel 862218 for more information.

Sarah Owen, Secretary

VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY – PLEASE USE IT

The Village Events Diary will now be kept at the Courtyard Café. **Please put forthcoming village events in the Diary to avoid dates clashing.** Thank you.

Village Clubs and Organisations

TIME TO SHARE

What a year 2015 was for Time to Share, ending with a fantastic hot Christmas Lunch in the East Coker Hall! We could do with some more members though. Take a look at the programme here for the next few months. There are many interesting things to come and listen to. And we are not really old, even though we now have time to share!

Monday 19 January – Birds of Prey

Monday 2 February – Orphanage Experience Monday 16 February – Talk by Fire Officer

Monday 2 March – Toby Jugs Monday 16 March – Quilling (Easter Cards)

Monday 30 March – Easter Bazaar Monday 13 April – Old Yeovil

Monday 27 April – Iceland - Annette

Sandra Snelling 862162 Mobile 07717723448 email sandra.snelling@googlemail.com

EAST COKER MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

The coffee mornings in September, October and November were well supported and generated £185, £140 and £200 for East Coker Players, Cancer Research, and Children in Need respectively. This brings the total for the eleven events held in 2014 to a creditable £2,469, although somewhat less than the 2013 total of £2788.

The next coffee mornings will be:

- East Coker Scouts – 30 January
- RNLI – 27 February
- Cystic Fibrosis – 27 March

Please come along to the Forester's Arms and give your support to these deserving causes.

There are some dates for 2015 still available so if you, or someone you know, would like to organise an event, please contact Cherry or Penny.

Many thanks to Charlotte and all the staff at the Forester's for the support they give to these popular village get-togethers.

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313 Penny Marpole 863055

Thank You

We would like to thank all those who helped us to raise funds for our charity morning last November and also at the Village Fete. A total of £250 was raised for 'Children in Need'. Thank you again

Don and Barbs Nicol

EAST COKER READING GROUP

We are a group of (currently) 8 people who meet once a month (usually on a Tuesday evening) to talk about the book we have been reading the previous month – unless the book was not very interesting, in which case we talk about anything that comes to mind! As the Library charges Reading Groups a monthly fee we, in turn, charge a fee of £1 per month to each member. We are a very easy-going group – if you don't like the book, don't feel obliged to read it! The discussions are always interesting - even on the odd occasion when the book hardly gets a mention!

If you are considering joining the 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

EAST COKER VILLAGE QUIZ 2015

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 7 March in East Coker Hall.

Last year, the Rusty Millers team put on a formidable performance to win the prestigious Cockerel Trophy so they will choose the charity which will benefit from the funds raised at this year's quiz.

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 last year's winning team.

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

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER

2014 has been a busy and successful year for the Branch and the Legion as a whole. The Branch membership is still just over 100, and we are still looking to recruit new members. Please consider joining us by contacting myself or a Committee member.

What a relief it is to see our service personnel withdrawing from Afghanistan. This is the time when families need our support, especially those who have lost a loved one, also those who are caring for someone with a physical or a mental illness. Let us also not forget our older veterans, those who served in WW2 who are now in their late 80's and 90's and our Falklands veterans of the conflict 32 years ago. The Legion is there to help, as it has been since 1921. Please help us to continue!!

2014 provided the Legion with the rare opportunity to get involved with a huge range of Centenary and Remembrance activities. The Legion was involved with the Tower of London Poppy Display, plus the LIGHTS OUT which saw the public come together to mark the Centenary in their homes. **Every Man Remembered** united the public in paying tribute at memorials and in churches to the 1,117,077 men and women from the Commonwealth who died in the Great War.

During the year, the D-Day 70 commemorations were far bigger than expected, demonstrating the countries' huge respect for those veterans who fought in Normandy.

In 2015, with our continued support, the aim of the Legion is to make Victory in Europe Day (VE) and Victory in Japan Day (VJ) just as memorable.

The Poppy Appeal 2013 which closed in September 2014 raised £38.9 million. East Coker district contribution was £7,370.41.

The 2015 appeal was launched in October. We have wonderful teams of collectors in the villages we cover, plus all the businesses who are willing to have a tin. A special thank-you to all the churches in our area who donate their Remembrance Service collections to the Poppy Appeal; this year their combined total was £1,174.38.

To date, the East Coker district 2014 Poppy Appeal total has reached **£8,048.72. (a record)**. For interest, the first East Coker Poppy Appeal in 1931 raised £15.7/6d. Thank you to all who gave so generously.

Dates for diaries:

Friday 17 April – Branch Annual Cheese & Wine Evening

Friday 8 May – VE Day 70th Anniversary

Sunday 21 June – Veterans Parade – Weymouth

Saturday 15 August – VJ Day 70th Anniversary

Thank you all for your continued support. David Holland – Chairman 862782 d.holland632@btinternet.com

Secretary Marilyn Smith 863944; **Membership** Caroline Field 863271;

Treasurer Clifford Humphreys 862242.

Committee Russell Chatwin 414080; Wendy Weston 862472; Barbara McAulay 423871

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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, minimum age 9 years up to 18.

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

D Farrant – Club Chairman

BURTON BOOK CLUB

Due to the success of the Reading Group we have now formally divided into two groups, reading different books. Burton Book Club (which currently has 9 members) meets once a month (usually) on a Wednesday afternoon for one hour. We currently meet over coffee/tea at Goose Slade Farm Tea Shop. Otherwise what is said about the East Coker Reading Group (above) holds good for the Burton Book Club and the same contact details apply.

Just to give you a flavour of the books we have been looking at in the two groups: 'Daughter of Fortune' by Isabel Allende; 'Left to tell: Surviving the Rwandan Holocaust' by Immaculee Ilibigaza; 'The Reason I Jump' by Naoki Higashida; 'The Tenderness of Wolves' by Stef Penney and 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night' by Mark Haddon.

EAST COKER PLAYERS – Happy New Year!

We would like to thank everyone for the tremendous support we received over the Pantomime weekend. We hope that you enjoyed our version of Cinderella. We all had a great time and received lots of lovely comments.

Our Christmas bingo evening raised £200 towards funding this year's productions. Thank you to those who donated prizes.

We will be holding our AGM on Monday 5 January 2015 at 7.00pm in the Dampier Room, East Coker Hall. All welcome.

During the Spring, we hope to bring you a couple of one act plays, and in November our annual Pantomime. This year we will need some new members, to be able to put on the next productions. Unfortunately some of our young-adult and adult members will not be available.

If you would like to join us, the minimum age is 8 years. We meet on the 1st Monday of the month. Details of monthly meetings will be posted on the village notice boards. We usually rehearse for productions on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Membership – adults £7, children £3.

East Coker Players are now registered with Somerset Child Safe.

For further information contact Anne 862060 or Hazel 429163

EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

Formed in 1999, the Gardening Club has provided a diverse and interesting programme for its members every year since. Over the past three months members have enjoyed a variety of talks and events. For the October meeting, David Hitchcock gave an entertaining talk on his experiences of showing at the Chelsea Flower Show, and of the pleasures of winning gold medals (as well as the disappointments of *not* winning medals!). The AGM was held in November at The Red House, where members enjoyed a very good evening meal. Committee Members elected were Kath Wilson (Chair), Sybil Beddoes, Stan Shayler, Yvonne Shayler and Helen Styles. At the December meeting an extremely informative talk on houseplants was given by Tony Das, Houseplant Manager for The Gardens Group. He brought with him some beautiful and unusual houseplants (which members could purchase), giving excellent details on the conditions and care they enjoy. Members' questions regarding their ailing plants were answered. Mulled wine and mince pies lent a festive atmosphere to the evening.

During 2015, members can yet again look forward to a series of interesting talks and events.

The programme for first three months is:

8 January	Shepherds' Huts and Living Vans – David Morris
12 February	From grower to garden centre – Adam Wallis - Gardens Group
12 March	Exotic plants & gardens of the Caribbean island of St Lucia - Steve Griffith - Abbotsbury

Trips are planned as follows:

1 May	Toby Buckland's Garden Festival, Exeter
16 July	University of Bristol Botanic Gardens, Bristol
15 September	Dean's Court, Wimborne

All trips depart from the East Coker Hall.

Club Holiday

Plans for the 2015 Annual Club Holiday have been finalised. Based at Frensham Ponds, Farnham in Buckinghamshire, members can look forward to four days of visits to various places of interest, including Syon House, the Savill Gardens, and a trip on the Thames. The holiday is currently fully booked.

Meetings, trips and the annual holiday are all very well supported. We are always happy to welcome new members and visitors. Why not join us for an enjoyable, sociable evening! You do not need to be good at gardening; talks cover a fairly wide variety of subjects. The annual subscription is £12, with subs of £1 per meeting. Visitors £3. 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.

NEW EAST COKER DISCUSSION GROUP

There are plans to establish a discussion group in the Village. The purpose of the group would be to share and explore ideas and beliefs. It is **not** to provide a platform for members to promote their own ideas and beliefs with the aim of persuading others of them. We hope to explore the political, cultural, moral, religious and practical issues which underpin particular ideas and beliefs, with the aim of equipping ourselves better to understand them. The Group would be about exploring ideas, not debating them in an adversarial way. We intend the atmosphere to be supportive and 'unpressured'.

Meetings would be expected to last for about an hour, but with the option of continuing for a further half hour should enough members wish.

Would anyone interested in becoming a member of the group please contact John Field on 07890375780 or 863896 or email jcmfield@hotmail.com Our first meeting is due to take place towards the end of January, and the subject of our discussion is: 'The state of Democracy in Britain.'

EAST COKER 400 CLUB


Autumn Draw

£100 Mr J. Mornement; £50 Mr D. Leng; £40 Mrs A. Davidge; £30 Lady Leng; £20 Mr T. Mitchell; £15 Mr P. Cameron; £10 Mr C. Bingley.

Winter Draw

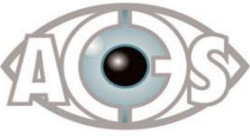
£100 Mr Russell Chatwin; £50 Mr John Carter; £40 Mrs Penny Marpole; £30 Mrs Doreen Bates; £20 Mrs Ann Cameron; £15 Mr Mike Sperring; £10 Mrs Barbara Chatwin.

As always, if anyone would like to join the 400 Club the subs are £20 a year payable by standing order, please contact Mike Weston 862472, Arthur Rees 862828 or Mary Ashley 862263. The Club makes donations each year to village or other local charities or good causes as well as having a quarterly draw for prizes as above.

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EAST COKER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We wish all readers a happy and healthy New Year.

Having had a very varied and interesting group of speakers during the past year we look forward to continuing the high standard of talks this year. In January, we will be hearing about the very important work of the RNLI, whilst in February, Moonshine Group will be explaining their products, maybe with a tasting. In March, members will be told how blood is transported quickly to patients in urgent need and about the role of Freewheelers Emergency Voluntary Service, who provide a free out of hours courier service to hospitals throughout the South West. In April, we will enjoy an American supper after our AGM.

We continue with the popular Whist Drives, at which everyone is welcome, on the third Thursday of the month, starting at 7.30pm at the East Coker Hall.

The Jumble Sale this year will be held on Saturday, 28 March in the hope that the weather will have begun to warm up.

Any further details, please contact secretary Ruby Rollo telephone 475010

Diary dates

Thursday 15 January – Whist Drive at East Coker Hall 7.30pm
Thursday 29 January – Talk on RNLI at East Coker Hall 7.30pm
Thursday 19 February – Whist Drive at East Coker Hall 7.30pm
Thursday 26 February – Talk by the Moonshine Appalachian Group at East Coker Hall 7.30pm
Thursday 19 March – Whist Drive at East Coker Hall 7.30pm
Thursday 26 March – Talk on Freewheelers at East Coker Hall 7.30pm
Saturday 28 March – Jumble Sale at East Coker Hall 2.00pm
Thursday 16 April – Whist Drive at East Coker Hall 7.30pm
Thursday 30 April – AGM and American Supper at East Coker Hall 7.30pm

THE TRIANGLE

In the autumn, two varieties of large-cupped narcissi were planted: Desdemona and St Patrick's Day. They were bought from de Jager's, a bulb company originally established in Holland, later moving across to the Maidstone area. They are suppliers to HRH The Prince of Wales, and two years ago they provided bulbs for Horatio's Garden. In 2011, Horatio Chapple (17) was killed by a polar bear while on a student expedition to Svalbard (Spitsbergen). He planned to become a doctor and had worked as a volunteer at the Duke of Cornwall's Spinal Treatment Centre at Salisbury District Hospital. Here, he saw the need for a garden to bring some relief to spinal patients frustrated by being constantly indoors, and felt this could aid their rehabilitation. Before leaving for the expedition, he had devised a questionnaire to establish what patients would want from a garden. In September 2012, the garden, dedicated to Horatio's memory, was opened by his parents.

There are also new tulips, Jan Reus and Recreado both classified as 'dark'. Jan Reus is a deep purple and Recreado a dark red wine colour.

With the help of Mathew, the Parish Ranger, six bags of organic peat-free compost were put down. It's pleasing to see that the Triangle now supports a flourishing worm population. Every autumn leaves are bagged up and stored to provide future leaf mould for mulch to help improve moisture retention under the tree.

Kathryn Sturtridge

SAVE EAST COKER

Following the public consultation on its Main Modifications to the proposed Local Plan, SSDC submitted a summary of all public responses, together with all the actual objections and comments, to the Planning Inspector in early November. The Inspector is expected to submit his report on his findings in January. If the Inspector rules that the plan is "sound" then the council could vote to 'adopt' the Plan in February or March. However, there are still a number of areas where we believe the Plan is based on flawed evidence and the Inspector could yet decide not to approve it.

We anticipate that there could well be a need for further advice from our Planning Consultants and barrister during 2015, when we hear the outcome of the Inspector's deliberations, so the need for fundraising to support our efforts to Save East Coker will continue this year.

Please see the programme of future fundraising events below and continue to give your support to help us sustain the fight.

ECPT contacts

Joe Coles 863146	Martyn Sowerbutts 86331	Richard Vanderpump 864565
Peter Woodford 863633	John Fysh 863963	Sandra Snelling 862162

Save East Coker Fund Raising Update

Great News! With your support for the December Fund Raising events, we have been able to pay off some more money which is owed to the QC and Consultant. We are confident that we will pay them in full by summer 2015.

The next planned event is the ever popular **VALENTINE'S BRUNCH** on **Sunday 15 February, from 9.30am – 1.00pm** in the East Coker Hall. Tickets on sale soon.

Dates for your diary!

Art Exhibition in St. Michael's Church – 18 and 19 April. Please contact me if you would like to exhibit/sell your paintings, sculptures etc. Details soon.

Open Garden at Longlands – Sunday 7 June courtesy of Jason and Fiona Dobson.

Wandering Supper – Saturday 27 June details from Di Miskin

Thank you all for your continued support for these events. East Coker is a great place to live! We wish you all a very happy, successful and healthy 2015.

Sandra Snelling 862162

The Christmas Lunch

Yet again the Christmas Lunch was such an enjoyable and memorable occasion. The success of such a venture can only be achieved through generosity and support of a valued band of helpers. Despite not intended as a profit-making function, we realised the sum of £1,500, of which £1,000 has been passed to the ECPT, to help in whatever way they see as appropriate, and a £500 cheque delivered to St Margaret's Hospice, here in Yeovil, in appreciation of their unstinting care and support of so many, including loved ones within our own community of East Coker.

What a unique and fantastic community we have here in this lovely village, and this will prove invaluable for whatever lies ahead as a challenge for us.

I can only reiterate my sincere thanks for the continued support, guidance and encouragement from Mary (and Tony). They do so much behind the scenes! Much appreciation and thanks are also extended to Joyce, who is finally bowing out of the kitchen duties, she will be greatly missed. Now we really are on our own!

We extend hearty good wishes to you all for 2015 and suggest you record a date for your diary to join us again on Sunday, 13 December, for a scrumptious **CHRISTMAS LUNCH!**

Some other dates to note

Sunday 15 February – a hearty breakfast from 9.30am – 1.00pm

Saturday 27 June – another Wandering Supper – details nearer the date

Di Miskin



THE EAST COKER BULK OIL PURCHASE SCHEME – JANUARY 2015

This time last year (2014) we'd had a cold autumn, so a lot of people topped-up. Then 2014 brought a mild spring and a mild autumn, so I expect many people's tanks are still pretty full. Mine certainly is. On the other hand, you might like to take advantage of the low heating oil price. It's 41ppl tonight (30 December). Just for the record, we ordered 52,000 litres in 60 drops in July last year.

As I've said before, the scheme is a great benefit to those who order less than 1,000 litres. In January 2014, larger orders saved almost 2ppl on quoted prices for 1,000+ltrs and smaller orders (the majority) almost 4ppl on the price for less than 1,000 ltrs. So we all helped each other and even saved fuel for the tanker.

Before you ask, I just do the donkey-work; collating the requirements, ringing round the suppliers and placing the order and you pay the supplier directly. 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. If you have already taken part and found it worthwhile, encourage your friends and neighbours to join in. The more we can order, the better the price.

To participate, or with any questions, contact me, preferably by email pauleddwards@waitrose.com, or 864413. Email makes it much easier and quicker to circulate information and I do not divulge email addresses. I circulate an email reminder before co-ordinating each order. Let me know your requirements by 7.00 pm on Wednesday 21 January. Please do not ring and ask what the price will be. I will not know it until I have collated the requirements and rung the suppliers.

Do It Now – The More We Buy, The More We Save!

Paul Edwards

Young People

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

First, many thanks to everyone who voted for us in the Lloyds Community Fund this year. We came second and received a cheque for £2,000. This is fantastic and will enable us to start our developments once the necessary paperwork is in place.

Secondly, many thanks to everyone who has supported Sam and Eleanor's fund-raising to go to the World Scout Jamboree in Japan in July. They have made excellent progress towards achieving their target in record time.

We successfully changed Cub Leader during last term as Paul unexpectedly had to leave us due to new work commitments. Vernon (Grizzly) has taken over and was supported by Pete from Yeovil District up to Christmas.

Both the Beavers and Cubs had a session at Ready2Climb as a Christmas party. This facility allows each Beaver or Cub to attempt a variety of different climbing walls at their own pace - it's great to see the hesitant ones at the start climbing to the top by the end of the evening. The Scouts finished term with an evening of sumo wrestling.

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 31 January Saturday 28 February Saturday 28 March

EAST COKER PRIMARY SCHOOL

A Happy New Year to all from the children, staff and governors at East Coker Primary.

We are looking back at a busy autumn term and looking forward to further exciting times in the year ahead. The school year has already seen events such as a residential camp for Year 6s in The Quantocks and an activity weekend for the Year 4 and 5 children on the south coast. These are great experiences which allow the children to learn about themselves and how to face challenges away from home. Classes have also been out on day trips to support their classroom work and to enjoy experiences such as the pantomime at The Octagon Theatre. We have a regular programme of visiting drama groups and other enrichment activities which help us to live up to our aims of a broad and exciting curriculum.

All this and Christmas too. The younger children performed a lovely show for their parents, Christmas Around the World, and the term finished in the traditional way with our older children's Carol Service at St Michael's with the choir, orchestra and readers leading a festive celebration in a packed church.

2015 should be just as busy. This term sees our focus on reading, with a week-long Book Fair and special activities and dressing-up on World Book Day. Our older classes will be putting on a 'Play in a Day', and all the children will enjoy a visit from the Kinetic Theatre Company.

Sports events and matches carry on through the term with opportunities for cross-country, football, netball, basketball, rugby, hockey and volleyball included. Our many talented singers and musicians will be preparing for the Annual Spring Concert in March.

With Easter falling quite early this year, we have a lot to cram into a short time, on top of a full and diverse curriculum. No wonder time passes so quickly.

Richard Powell, Headteacher

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

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 weekday morning and afternoon sessions on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with 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 and both playgroups feed into East Coker Primary School. East Chinnock under Fives playgroup is a smaller group and this can be a great benefit to the younger children. East Chinnock under Fives playgroup also runs an integrated Toddler Session on Thursday mornings, from 9.30am to 11.00am for £1 per family.

To find out more information, please visit www.eastchinnockunder5spreschool.co.uk

Information about both playgroups can be found on their websites and/or by contacting Kay Strode on 07798 812540.

The Churches

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

On Sunday 4 January, we shall be saying farewell to the Rev'd David Wilson and his wife, Frances, at a special Service in East Coker Hall. David has been the founding Rector of the Coker Ridge Benefice since it was initiated 18 months ago, but ill health has forced him to retire prematurely. Much of the smooth transition from two Benefices to one is due to David's sensitive handling and we wish him and Frances good health and a happy retirement as they prepare to move to Dorset.

His departure will trigger an appointment process in which the seven churches will be thinking about the kind of person they would like to build on David's ministry. This will entail preparing a Benefice profile, consulting the patrons, advertising, interviewing, appointing and, allowing for the successful candidate's need to give three months notice. It means a successor is very unlikely to be in place for six months, at the very least.

We will, aim to maintain as much of the current pattern of Services as possible, though the 8.00am Holy Communion Service, on the 2nd Sunday of the month, will be suspended for the time being.

Meanwhile, in December we were very pleased to appoint a part-time Children's Work Leader for our churches. Ellie Farr is a member of our congregation who already leads our Sunday School. Ellie is currently engaged in researching successful children's projects in churches across the diocese with a view to recommending, then implementing, something similar here. Further details will follow as plans develop.

With every good wish for a very Happy New Year. The Rev'd Charles Hatton

Further information about St Michael's can be found at our website <http://www.eastcokerchurch.org.uk>

Details of all Services at the seven churches in the Coker Ridge Benefice (together with the monthly Newsletter and weekly Notice Sheet) are available online at <http://www.cokerridge.org.uk>

SPRING FAIR AND PLANT SALE 30 MAY 2015

St Michael's will be holding a Spring Fair and Plant Sale on Saturday 30 May at Hope House (next to Townsend Farm, East Coker).

Stalls will include Plants!! Cakes; Produce; Bottle Tombola and Fair Trade Goods. More details will appear in the Church porch, and on village noticeboards.

In the meantime, please contact Christine Vince, tel 863429.

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

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

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 each 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 alternate Tuesday evenings for anyone who may be interested in discussing the Christian faith. We have recently run a 'Christianity Explored' course. If anyone is interested in attending such a course, we would be glad to run another.

Little Wheelers Mother and Toddler Group meeting at the East Coker Hall each Tuesday (during term time) from 10.30am - 12.00pm. £2.50 per family to include coffee/tea and cake for the adults (with squash and biscuits for the children). There are also regular Craft activities. Parents and guardians are responsible for their child's welfare.

Girls' Get-Together takes place once a month on a Thursday evening when (usually) some 30 or so ladies of all ages get together for a meal and watch a demonstration or listen to a short talk. There is no meeting during January, but we will be recommencing in February.

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 get in touch 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.com

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.' John's Gospel, Chapter 1 verse 1 (NIV)

Village News

EAST COKER VILLAGE STORE

It is with much sadness that I have to inform you that East Coker Village Store will close and cease trading on Saturday 28 February 2015. This has been a very difficult decision to make, but the business has been struggling for a while now and it is no longer viable to keep it open.

We have tried our very best to keep the business going since losing the post office in 2008 in very challenging and changing times. Many villages have seen their village shops close in recent years and unfortunately this seems to be a sign of the times. I would like to thank all our customers for their support and ask for your understanding in this matter. We have some lovely customers and I am going to miss them very much.

Obviously, I will be running the stock down, but newspapers, milk, bread, greeting cards and most necessities will be available to the last day. There will be some clearance bargains available from now until closure so do come and have a look.

I have loved running the shop, and I love East Coker and we intend as a family to stay here in the village.

Vicky

A MESSAGE FROM FLORAL CORNER

As you all now know, Vicky has had to make the difficult decision to close East Coker Village Stores this February. This has meant I have had a decision of my own to make. Floral Corner has been going for three years, and although, in that time, I have built up a circle of loyal and regular customers, I am not in a position to be able to afford my own premises. Therefore, I am intending to run the business from home, at 28 Mill Close (just around the corner from the shop).

Although there will be some slight changes, I will still be offering a full floristry service, including funeral tributes and wedding flowers (I already have three booked for 2015).

Notice will be needed for all orders to allow me to put in my flower requirements. I am going to continue to use my present supplier, so ordering will be Mondays and Thursdays.

Although I won't be able to stock my large range of gifts, I will continue to offer personal plaques and hearts to accompany any arrangement.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy New Year and to thank all my customers and friends for their continued support and good wishes and hope you will continue to support me in the future.

Elaine. tel 01935863651 mobile 07962125246 email elaine.dugdale@btinternet.com

CAROL SINGING

Carol Singing around the Christmas Tree in the Paddock was very successful on Christmas Eve! Over 200 came to sing, Sam Barnes played beautifully on his trumpet to keep us all in tune, and we raised £245 for NSPCC.

Thanks must go to East Coker Parish Council for organising such a special event.

Here is what one very happy customer had to say:

"Adam and I along with the children, and not forgetting Nanny and Grandad, would just like to say a huge thank you to you and your team that organised Carols in the Paddock. It was such a special evening, and for us was a lovely start to Christmas Day, a lovely atmosphere both in the paddock and afterwards in the Helyar for both children and adults. We do hope this will become an annual event and evolve as a tradition our children will remember."

Michelle Knight

SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY

The mobile library route for East Coker is Tuesday, every four weeks from 1.00pm – 1.20 pm at The Helyar Arms, 1.30pm – 1.45pm pm at Mill Close and 1.50pm – 2.05pm Meadow View.

Further information from Libraries Direct 08453459177 or www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries

27 January 24 February 24 March

BRITISH SUMMER TIME – begins Sunday 29 March.

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COURTYARD CAFÉ

News from Courtyard Café

First of all, Sue and Allan wish all our lovely, loyal customers a Very Happy New Year and hope you will continue to enjoy visiting us throughout 2015.

We have got so busy that many of you will have noticed that Marilyn joined us on a permanent basis in August, and Lisa helps out on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Over the festive period, we provided Christmas lunches for two sports clubs, and Crystal Classics, in addition to two reception buffets. The roast lunches proved so popular that we hope to make them a regular feature on the menu. So watch this space for further news of this.

In the meantime, Courtyard Café dates are:

- First Saturday of each month get crafty with Sarah and Liz
- 27 January – Business as usual after a two week break
- 14 February – Short mat bowls and Valentine's Day
- 14 March – Short mat bowls

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

A very big thank you to everyone who saves their used stamps, a huge bagful has just been received by the charity.

The Courtyard Café will now accept them, so please save all your Christmas stamps for this worthy cause as they are reused to make money for this charity, which funds vital research into childhood cancers.

EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk's notice to retire

Mrs Pauline Gubbins has given notice of her wish to retire at end of May 2015, and Mrs Gill Macpherson will be her successor, starting in February 2015. We thank Pauline for her many years of service to the Parish Council, and wish her continuing progress in getting back to full operational capacity.

Neighbourhood Plan

We continue our important and demanding task of producing the Neighbourhood Plan. With support from our consultants, we have now produced our Vision Statement, Objectives and Policy intents. We ask for your ongoing support and feedback as we move towards the writing of the policies which will guide the Draft Neighbourhood Plan. This will guide the detail of future planning decisions within the Parish. **PLEASE SEE OUR FEEDBACK FORM AT THE END OF THIS NEWSLETTER AND REPLY AS INDICATED BY 6 FEBRUARY 2015.**

Parish Ranger

We are grateful to our Parish Ranger for the work that he does in keeping our parish in good order. If you spot something that would benefit from his attention, please contact Cllr Bridget Sugg before 6.00pm on 863435 or 0709 7621106.

Steps

As SSDC have not been supportive of replacing the steps at the junction of the footpath from Wraxhill Road to Sandhurst Road, the Parish Council have organised and paid for new steps and handrail. The outcome is very positive for users of the steps, including our many canine friends! Also, the Parish Council have bought and installed a dog bin in Placket Lane on the fieldgate side.

Helyar & Walker-Heneage-Button Family Archives

The Parish Council was approached by Somerset Heritage Service for financial help to purchase these important local archives. It was agreed that a donation of £1,000 would be made to conserve the existence of these artifacts to be held centrally by the Archivist at Taunton.

Co-option of Mrs Sandra Snelling

Mrs Sandra Snelling was formally co-opted as a Parish Councillor at the November meeting.

Grant to East Coker Society

Due to the three-fold increase in printing costs being charged by SSDC, East Coker Society applied successfully to the Parish Council for a grant of £500 to assist its newsletter production. For further details of administration of grant applications, please contact Parish Clerk on 862062 or clerk@eastcokerpc1wanadoo.co.uk

Presentation by members of the 'Zone'

Ella and Emma came to the Parish Council November meeting to explain the benefits to them and the parish of the weekly youth project, The Zone, held at the Pavilion. Council welcomed them and appreciated their thoughtful presentation based on the results of a survey they had carried out on the opinions of the young people. Thanks as ever to Cllr Rod Jones for his work in accessing funding and administering this provision.

Commonwealth War Graves Plaque

With the consent of the Parish Council, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, in the centenary year of the First World War, will erect war grave plaques at the entrance to inform the public that there are two war graves in the cemetery.

Christmas Tree in the Paddock

Mr and Mrs Miskin have donated a 20ft tree, which has been erected in the Paddock and decorated with lights, funded by the Parish Council, who also gave the Miskins a £200 donation for a charity of their choice. Many councillors and others have kindly helped to erect the tree which will be the venue for Carols on Christmas Eve.

Nippy Bus Survey

Somerset County Council are reviewing their subsidy for various bus routes throughout the county. The N8 which serves East and West Coker is under threat to lose its Saturday service completely. County Cllr Marcus Fysh obtained copies of the survey which were distributed by Parish Councillors in an effort to try to save the service.

Wi-Fi Club

As a result of comments made in response to the Neighbourhood Plan survey, Time to Share and the Parish Council have worked together to hold an informal group on Tuesday mornings in East Coker Tea Rooms. The aim is to share knowledge on the use of information technology including tablets, mobile phones and laptops. The success has been enormous with people able to make instant contact with families and friends all over the world. One exercise was to respond to the bus survey on line!!

Precept 2015-2016

At the December meeting, the Parish Council agreed to retain the Precept at the 2014/15 level.

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO COMPLETE AND RETURN (BY 6 FEBRUARY 2015) THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SURVEY AT THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER.



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EAST COKER RAINFALL REPORT AUTUMN/WINTER 2014

The dry start to autumn experienced in September did not last into the remaining months of the season. With an Atlantic weather pattern dominating until 22 October, a succession of low pressure systems brought heavy rainfall during the first three weeks of the month. 14 mm of rain fell on 3 October, followed by a further 18mm on 6 October and 20mm falling on 8-9 October. 31mm fell between 13 & 14 October. Becoming reminiscent of the winter of 2013/14, the rain continued between 14 to 22 October, totalling a further 45mm falling persistently over the week culminating in the first severe storm of the season on 22 October. The rain gradually eased and the last week of October saw a dry spell that lasted from 22 to 28 October. The dry weather was also accompanied by unseasonably high temperatures, with warmest ever recorded Halloween. 140mm of rain fell during October, slightly over twice the average rainfall of 67mm for the month.

November was very similar to October, the overall totals were lower than October, but the rainfall was less intense but more persistent. 8mm fell on the 2nd, 6mm on the 4th, 8mm on the 6th, 17mm on the 7-8th, 9mm on the 9th and so it continued. 27mm fell on 11 & 12 November and this was followed by 1-2mm a day until 18 November, after which there was a brief dry interlude until 21 November. Rain started again accumulating a further 22mm over the period between 21 and 26 November. The month finished with drier weather that extended well into December. The total for the month was 121mm, marginally less than October and nearly twice the monthly average of 65mm.

December has been a dry start to winter, but it has not necessarily seemed so. There has been intermittent rainfall on many days in the month but the totals have not amounted to much as the rain has been largely light and patchy. There have been on two days of marked rainfall, 10mm falling on 11 December and 12mm falling on 17th. The weather turned colder and drier in the last week of the month with little recordable rain. 35mm of rainfall were been recorded for the whole of December, less than half the average 84mm rainfall for the month. Despite the colder end to the month, the autumn and early winter followed the year as a whole, with 2014 being one of the warmest years since records begun.

No surprise then that the Daffodils were out at the end of December!!

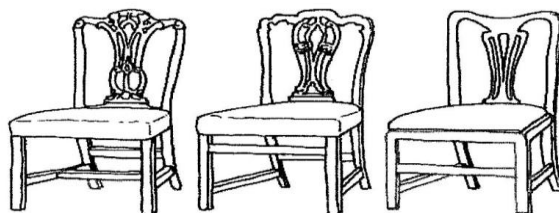
Ian Boswall

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **April 2015**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or e-mail l.lindsay@eastcoker.com, by Friday 20 March 2015.

KEN MARSH

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QUARTERLY VILLAGE DIARY

JANUARY 2015 – MARCH 2015

Thurs 15 Jan	W.I. – Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 19 Jan	Time To Share – Birds of Prey	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 27 Jan	Library		
Thurs 29 Jan	W.I. – Talk on RNLI	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 30 Jan	Coffee Morning – Scouts	10.00am – 12noon	The Forester's
Sat 31 Jan	Scouts – Waste Paper Collection	8.30am – 10.30am	Near the school
Mon 2 Feb	Time To Share-Orphanage Experience	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 12 Feb	Gardening Club – Adam Wallis	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 15 Feb	Save East Coker – Valentine's Brunch	9.30am – 1.00pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 16 Feb	Time To Share – Fire Officer Talk	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 19 Feb	W.I. – Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 24 Feb	Library		
Thurs 26 Feb	W.I. – Talk	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 27 Feb	Coffee Morning - RNLI	10.00am – 12noon	The Forester's
Sat 28 Feb	Scouts – Waste Paper Collection	8.30am – 10.30am	Near the school
Mon 2 Mar	Time To Share – Toby Jugs	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 7 Mar	Village Quiz	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 12 Mar	Gardening Club – Exotic Plants	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 16 Mar	Time To Share – Quilling	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 19 Mar	W.I. – Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 20 Mar	Copy for April Newsletter		
Tues 24 Mar	Library		
Thurs 26 Mar	W.I. – Freewheelers	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 27 Mar	Coffee Morning – Cystic Fibrosis	10.00am – 12noon	The Forester's
Sat 28 Mar	W.I. – Jumble Sale	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 28 Mar	Scouts – Waste Paper Collection	8.30am – 10.30am	Near the school
Sun 29 Mar	British Summer Time Begins		

East Coker Neighbourhood Plan (NP)
DRAFT VISION, OBJECTIVES AND POLICY INTENTS
We need your response by 6 February 2015

We've taken the comments made during earlier parish consultations between October 2013 and July 2014 and identified a vision and nine objectives to guide the way East Coker develops between 2015 and 2028.

It is now the community's turn to provide the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group with its thoughts on the vision, objectives and issues we've identified. Send us your views and help us develop future policy.

The aim of the East Coker Neighbourhood Plan is to provide the building blocks on which the parish will develop in the future. The Plan covers the period up to 2028 and should be reviewed every five years. It allows the East Coker community to exert greater control and influence over planning matters and ensures planners take account of local objectives and policies.

A copy of this document, together with the complete document including the Draft Vision, Objectives and Policy Intents can be found at www.eastcokerparish.neighbourhoodplan.com or contact Kath Wilson for a hard copy. We want to know whether you agree with our ideas and ask you to indicate 'Agree with this', by marking with a cross (X) or 'Change ...' and insert your suggestions. Please return as hard copy to Kath Wilson 39A Wraxhill Road, BA20 2JX; Sarah Owen, Paddock Cottage, EC, BA22 9JP; Matt Horsley, 2 Cross Cottages, BA22 9HZ; or electronically to kath.wilson@sky.com by 6 February 2015. For help contact Cllr Kath Wilson, 01935 475029 or kath.wilson@sky.com

Vision statement

East Coker is predominantly a rural parish. Our vision for the Parish of East Coker is to maintain a peaceful environment with a strong sense of community that continues to protect and celebrate its unique history and heritage through the active involvement of all residents.

Agree
with
this

Change

Design respecting heritage and historic environment

Objective: *Preserve the rich heritage and history of East Coker by protecting and enhancing historic environment assets and their settings. Ensure the design of all new development is sympathetic in style and character to the location.*

Agree
with
this

Change

Housing

Objectives: *1. Support the provision of small scale suitable development that meets the need of the parish community including affordable housing, family housing and housing suitable for older people, enabling people with a local connection to stay in the village throughout their lifetime.*

2. Work positively to ensure that the urban extension of Keyford is effectively integrated into the wider area for the benefit of current and future residents without compromising the rural and historic environment.

Agree
with
this

Change

Employment Land

Objective: *Encourage local business to flourish and encourage new start-ups consistent with our vision*

Agree
with
this

Change

Best Use of Land		
Objective: 1. To follow a brownfield first policy for development (employment and housing) subject to overriding environmental or heritage issues. 2. Protect the Parish's Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land.		
Agree with this		Change
Protecting parish amenities		
Objective: To ensure that sufficient community and leisure facilities are maintained to serve the Parish including new provision deemed necessary in the future.		
Agree with this		Change
School		
Objective: Support the ongoing viability and vitality of East Coker Primary School.		
Agree with this		Change
Young people and new facilities		
Objective: East Coker Parish Council will ensure that all new development and payments derived from development schemes support provision of adequate social and recreational facilities for young and old to secure the long term future of community facilities that make the parish special.		
Agree with this		Change
Flood risk		
Objective: East Coker Parish Council will identify and work with organisations e.g. Somerset County Council, the Environment Agency, Wessex Water and local landowners to ensure that the impact of flood risk is minimised.		
Agree with this		Change
Infrastructure and facilities		
Objective: Encourage the retention and enhancement of retail provision in the village through the positive promotion of these facilities.		
Agree with this		Change
Any other comments...		

Thank you for taking the time to complete. Now please return to **Kath Wilson 39A Wraxhill Road, BA20 2JX; Sarah Owen, Paddock Cottage, EC, BA22 9JP; Matt Horsley, 2 Cross Cottages, BA22 9HZ** ; or electronically to kath.wilson@sky.com by 6 February 2015.