

# East Coker Society Newsletter



January 2017

Free Issue No 165

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## East Coker Society News

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

We hope all our readers have enjoyed their Christmas festivities and are ready to embrace the New Year after a challenging 2016.

We were really pleased to receive the support of all our stall-holders, helpers and visitors at our Annual Winter Fayre on 29 October, which raised £754 towards our funds. The range and quality of items for sale was very good and gave the opportunity for early Christmas shopping. We will confirm the date for the 2017 Winter Fayre in the April edition.

Many of our readers now receive their Newsletter by email or read it on our website, but we are most grateful for the continued help from Janet and Martin Wells and also our distributors, who continue to deliver copies four times a year in all weathers.

The content of these Newsletters is only made possible due to your contributions, but we must be very thankful for Lesley's excellent editorial skills. Please help her to make this job easier, by making a note of the copy date, which is always indicated at the end of the Newsletter.

Thank you. Sarah Owen (Secretary)

## Village Clubs and Organisations

**THE COKER 400 CLUB** draws for Autumn (belated!) and Christmas:

### Autumn Draw

£100 Mrs Vicky Moorhouse; £50 Sarah Owen; £40 Cdr P Pisani; £30 Mr Terry Kimpton; £20 Mrs J. Fellows  
£15 Sandra Snelling; £10 Mr & Mrs Tony Ashley.

### Christmas Draw

£100 Peter Eastmant; £50 Ken McIver; £40 Mrs M O'Neill; £30 Mrs Penny Marpole; £20 Mrs E Cowley; £15 Mrs C. Mornement; £10 Mr and Mrs D. Holland.

The 400 Club has been pleased to send a cheque for £250 to the East Coker Scout Group for their funds.

If anyone would like to join the 400 Club then please contact Mary Ashley 862263, Arthur Rees 862828 or Mike Weston 862472. The annual subs are £20 payable, if possible, by bank standing order.

Mike Weston

### EAST COKER PLAYERS

Happy New Year to you all. It was lovely to see so many of you at our Pantomime - Snow White. Last year was one of the biggest casts we have had, with lots of new young members. Everyone had a great time and we thank you for your support. Our Christmas Bingo was another night of family fun. We raised £290 which will go towards our 2017 projects, being discussed at our AGM.

We have all been saddened to hear of the passing of two past members, and recently of our Stage Manager, Norman Clifton. Gloria Mead joined the Players when they began, and retired in 1992. She appeared in many early old time music hall shows and Pantomimes. Joyce Warren was a member from 1993 – 2002, also appearing in pantomimes and a play. Norman joined us as a stage-hand for Peter Pan in 2002 he then took on the role of Stage Manager for Babes in The Wood in 2003. He even appeared in Cinderella, in 2014, as Breadstick the Butler. Over the years, he created lots of our stage sets and larger props, including last year's wishing well. He will be remembered for many things including his knowledge, talent in making things from old wood and cardboard and commitment to the Players. He will be sorely missed by us all.

Looking forward to this year, we are at the moment preparing for our May Production. A one-act play with refreshments, to be performed on Saturday 20 May 2017 at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Further details will appear on Village notice boards.

If you are interested in joining us, either on stage or behind the scenes - contact Anne Hartley 862060 or Hazel Giddings 429163

## FILMFLIX – Films at East Coker Hall

After a break for December, film evenings restart this month, January 2017. The programme for the next three months is as follows:

Wednesday 25 January - **Love and Friendship** – In the 18th century, the seductive and manipulative Lady Susan (Kate Beckinsale) uses devious tactics to win the heart of the eligible Reginald De Courcy (Xavier Samuel). Love & Friendship is a reminder that Jane Austen was not only a brilliant architect of screen-friendly plots but also a very funny writer.

Wednesday 22 February - **Bridget Jones' Baby** – Breaking up with Mark Darcy (Colin Firth) leaves Bridget Jones (Renée Zellweger) over 40 and single again. Feeling that she has everything under control, Jones decides to focus on her career as a top news producer. Suddenly, her love life comes back from the dead when she meets a dashing and handsome American named Jack (Patrick Dempsey). Things couldn't be better, until Bridget discovers that she is pregnant. Now, the befuddled mother-to-be must figure out if the proud father is Mark or Jack.

Wednesday 29 March – **Café Society** – Looking for an exciting career, young Bobby Dorfman leaves New York for the glitz and glamour of 1930s Hollywood. After landing a job with his uncle, Bobby falls for Vonnie, a charming woman who happens to be his employer's mistress. Settling for friendship but ultimately heartbroken, Bobby returns to the Bronx and begins working in a nightclub. Everything falls into place when he finds romance with a beautiful socialite, until Vonnie walks back into his life and captures his heart once again.

Showings will commence at 7.30pm. Doors open 7.00pm. Entry £6 per person. For further details, contact 863002 or 862447.

## EAST COKER VILLAGE QUIZ 2017

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Village Quiz will be held in East Coker Hall on Saturday 11 March. Doors open at 7.00pm and the first round of questions will start at 7.30pm. As usual, Palmer's excellent fish and chips will be served at half time. The proceeds of the evening will be donated to the charity nominated by last year's winners, The Dregs (Wine Circle) team.

The number of teams is limited by the size of the Hall and we have been asked to restrict the size of each team to a maximum of eight because there is a view that "more brains can mean more right answers" - not always the case, of course!

Quiz teams have already started to make provisional bookings for this hard-fought annual contest to win the prestigious Cockerel trophy, so make sure your team makes its booking soon to avoid disappointment. We look forward to hearing from the regular contenders and new teams, some of which have already expressed interest in competing.

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

## EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

Another three months have sped by. In October, Marion Dale gave a talk entitled *An Introduction to Arts and Crafts and Edwardian Gardens*. This was an interesting and informative presentation, from which members learnt much about some of the beautiful gardens of the era and the people who designed and planted them. Several of these gardens are to be found in the local area, for example, Hestercombe, Barrington Court, Iford Manor, and Wayford Manor. The AGM was held in November at the Red House, where, following the meeting, members enjoyed a meal and each other's company. December – Quiz Time! - and a test of members' horticultural knowledge. As in 2015, the results were close, with the winning team just piping the previous year's winners to the post. A very sociable evening, with an atmosphere of friendly competition, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. A few of our members enjoyed the WEA programme in October/November entitled *The Rise of Women Gardeners in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*. This tied in very nicely with Marion Dale's talk.

And so we move on into 2017, with another varied programme, which is as follows for the next four months:

Thursday 12 January	<b><i>Low Maintenance Gardening</i></b>	Gold Club
Thursday 9 February	<b><i>The Good, the Bad and the Ugly</i></b>	Michael Jordan, Fungus Conservation Trust
Thursday 9 March	<b><i>The Answer lies in the Soil</i></b>	David Usher
Thursday 13 April	<b><i>Trug-making by a miserable Trugger – I think that's what the wife called me</i></b>	Carl Sadler

The small committee does an excellent job at planning the programme, making every effort to ensure that all members are able to benefit from most of the talks, events and trips.

Meetings, trips and the annual holiday are all very well supported. New members and visitors are always welcome. We are a friendly lot – why not join us for an enjoyable, sociable evening? You do not need to be good at gardening; talks cover a wide variety of subjects. The annual subscription is £15, 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, Halves Lane, East Coker. For further information, please contact Helen Styles 862447 or Stan Shayler 420291

## EAST COKER HALL CHARITABLE TRUST

### Committee Members

The Trust is seeking a person to take over from the current Treasurer, who, after serving for ten years, will stand down at the 2017 AGM. The committee is also seeking someone to act as the Health and Safety officer. We would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in helping to run this valued village amenity. If you would like to know more, please contact John Hollis Chairman 863002, Clive Murrell Treasurer 862827 or Helen Styles Secretary 862447.

### Chairs

Many of you will by now have noticed that the old plastic chairs have been replaced by smart, more comfortable, fabric covered ones. We trust that you will all take care of the new chairs, which have cost a considerable sum. Some of the old plastic chairs have been retained, and these should be used for children's groups, children's parties and groups which use paints or glues. To help offset the cost of the new chairs, the old ones are being sold at £2 per chair. If you wish to purchase any of the old chairs, please contact John Hollis Chairman 863002, Clive Murrell Treasurer 862827 or Helen Styles Secretary 862447.

## EAST COKER 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?

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

## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER:

The Branch 2016 Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning was held at West Coker Commemoration Hall on Saturday 22 October 2016. A very successful event with a total £805.00 being raised - a great start the 2016 appeal. Thank-you to all our helpers and friends.

The East Coker District total to date is just over £7,500, with a little gift aid to be added. In 2015 we raised £7,901.25. The RBL overall total was £48.5million.

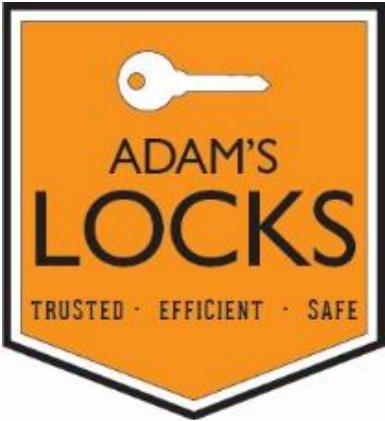
Our Service personnel past and present, their families and dependants are forever grateful for the support we give them as they go through difficult times. On behalf of them all I thank you all for your support.

A lot of you will be aware that 2017 is the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele, from 31 July to 6 November 1917. The last battle of WW1, in which Harry Patch from Somerset, "The Last Fighting Tommie" took part. Harry was out of the war long before the battle ended. On 22 September 1917 when returning with his five-man Lewis Gun team from the front line, a German shell burst above their heads. Three of the team were killed, Harry and the other team members suffered serious injuries from shrapnel. After the war he ran his own plumbing business around Somerset including the Yeovil area employing 28 men, retiring at the age of 65. Harry never spoke of his experiences (about which are now well written) until he went into a care home aged 100. He passed away peacefully on Saturday 25 July 2009 aged 111.

It is my intention to put up a display in St Michael's for the period of the battle in memory of Harry and the 325,000 British and Canadians casualties of the battle.

**Note for diaries** – Friday 21 April 2017 – 7.30pm at East Coker Hall. The Branch Cheese & Wine Evening. There will be speakers, including a representative from the RBL Admiral Nurse Service – a community dementia nurse service, which offers specialist support, information and advice for the carers and people suffering from dementia. RBL awards will also be presented during the evening.

Chairman David Holland 862782 [d.holland632@btinternet.com](mailto:d.holland632@btinternet.com) Secretary Marilyn Smith 863944





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## BURTON BOOK CLUB

We are a group of eight people who meet once a month (usually on a Wednesday afternoon) for one hour. We currently meet over coffee/tea at Goose Slade Farm Tea Shop. In addition to the £1 per month fee for books, we also put £2 into a 'kitty' to pay for drinks and, when funds allow, have a 'free' month. We have eclectic tastes, and have found ourselves reading (and enjoying!) books that we would, quite simply, not have chosen as individuals.

If you would like to know more, please contact either Jennie Warman on [jennifer.warman@btinternet.com](mailto:jennifer.warman@btinternet.com) tel 421638 or Penny Marpole on [penny.marpole@btinternet.com](mailto:penny.marpole@btinternet.com)


## EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

Our meetings are normally held on the last Tuesday of the month at the Helyar Arms, East Coker at 7.30pm, but do check our website for the most up to date details of any meeting [www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk](http://www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk)

So looking ahead to 2017:


- Tuesday 31 January – Winter Open Meeting. Bring a couple of poems to read – your own or a favourite poet. Or just come and listen.
- Tuesday 28 February – Greek Evening. Caroline Mornement will lead this meeting. Poetry and visual images to add to the mix.
- Tuesday 28 March – The Sherborne Poets. A joint meeting with the Sherborne Poets – details nearer the time.

For more information about the East Coker Poetry Group, contact David Cloke, Group Co-ordinator, 862623 email [info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk](mailto:info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk)

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We are happy to collect any unwanted glasses for us to use in our eye testing work in Kenya.

## EAST COKER MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

2016 ended well with the October event for Cancer Research raising £487 and in November £330 was raised for Children in Need. Due to the generosity of everyone who came to the events in 2016 the total raised during the year amounted to £2722.

The forthcoming events will be for

- Help for Heroes on 27 January
- RNLI on 24 February
- Cystic Fibrosis on 31 March
- Children's Lifeline/Yeovil Link on 28 April

There are still vacancies in the calendar of events for the second half of the year so if you know anyone who would like to hold a coffee morning for a charity please ask them to contact Cherry or Penny.

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

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

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313 Penny Marpole 863055

## **EAST COKER W.I.**

With the Christmas festivities behind us we look forward to a New Year programme packed with a variety of interesting speakers and full of fun activities. We welcome Kay Townsend, who will be telling us about the history of fairgrounds, whilst in February, Ian Williamson is talking about his three weeks in Nepal after their horrific earthquake. March is the time for our AGM, but will be enhanced by a wine-tasting and a competition for a loaf of bread which will be eaten with some tasty cheese after the competition results. In April, Sue and Malcolm McDonald will be demonstrating historical dances, and maybe those who are agile, will be able to have a try.

Our team have made it to the next round in the County Skittles Competition. So we wish them good luck. The monthly fun and games afternoon will recommence on Monday 9 January at 2.00pm, when anyone over the age of 50 years is invited to join us for activities of indoor kurling, seated volley ball, boccia and a cup of tea and cake. All for the price of £2.50.

On Saturday 11 March we will be holding a Jumble Sale in the East Coker Hall at 2.00pm. Any jumble except very large items and electrical goods can be left at the Hall from 12 noon.

### **Whist Drive**

Young and old are all welcome to our whist drives which are now held in the Dampier Room East Coker Hall on the third Thursday of the month at 7.30pm when excellent prizes can be won.

We wish you all a happy and peaceful New Year. Any enquiries please contact Ruby Rollo tel 475010

### **Diary dates**

Thursday 19 January	Whist Drive 7.30pm Dampier Room, East Coker Hall
Thursday 26 January	Fairground History 7.30pm East Coker Hall
Monday 6 February	Fun and games 2.00pm East Coker Hall
Thursday 16 February	Whist Drive 7.30pm Dampier Room, East Coker Hall
Thursday 23 February	'My Three weeks in Nepal' 7.30pm East Coker Hall
Monday 6 March	Fun and games 2.00pm East Coker Hall
Saturday 11 March	Jumble Sale 2.00pm East Coker Hall
Thursday 16 March	Whist drive 7.30pm Dampier Room, East Coker Hall
Thursday 30 March	AGM and wine tasting 7.30pm East Coker Hall
Monday 3 April	Fun and games 2.00pm East Coker Hall

## **ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH**

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported our Diva Lunch back in October – we had a complete sell out this year and made an amazing £7,300.00 from this event. All booked again for this year on Friday 13 October. Details to follow in due course.

We will be doing our very popular Local Cream Tea delivery this year on Thursday 15 June, again details to follow later.

Jane Donnelly, Somerset & Dorset Chairperson, Action Medical Research, tel 01935 478409 Email: [jane@donnelly81.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:jane@donnelly81.fsnet.co.uk)

## **EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE**

The Wine Circle would like to invite you to a Burns Night Social, on the 21 January 2017, 8.00pm, at the East Coker Hall. The closing date for numbers is 16 January 2017. If you would like to go, please let Chris Branson know, tel 863555.

Wine Circle meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of the month at 8.00pm, at the East Coker Hall.

- Wednesday 1 February 2017 a talk from Castle Gardens at 7.00pm (note time change)
- Wednesday 1 March 2017 a talk from Burrows Hill Cider tasting,
- Wednesday 5 April 2017 Bulgarian Wine Tasting and Talk.

We welcome members new and old. Happy New Year!

Sarah Rashley




## THE EAST COKER BULK OIL PURCHASE SCHEME

In January last year we paid 21.95ppl ex VAT and 28.90ppl, in July when we ordered 36,700 litres in 40 drops. Today 3 January, it's quoted at 41.78ppl, so the price seems to have recovered somewhat after the last couple of years. Let's hope it's about to recover from its Christmas peak. Because we buy in bulk for a small area, we usually beat the quoted price by two pence or so. As I said last time, it looks as though we might be back to the old routine of filling up in the summer and topping up in January/February.

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 [pauledwards@waitrose.com](mailto:pauledwards@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 7.00pm on Wednesday 25 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.

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## TIME TO SHARE

Join Time to Share every other Monday in the East Coker Hall from 2.30pm – 4.00pm. Lots to do, lots to listen to, lots of fun and lots of cake, thanks to our East Coker ladies. You can be any age! Just as long as you have "The Time"!!

For more information, contact Sandra on 862162.

### January

Monday 16 – Sound of Music Film and Lunch 12.noon

Monday 30 – Your Favourite Things

### February

Monday 13 – Westland Singers

Monday 27 – Old Yeovil

### March

Monday 13 – Nuts and Crackers

Monday 27 – Mother's Day in South Africa

[www.eastcoker.com](http://www.eastcoker.com)

## EAST COKER FLOWER SHOW AND WINE FESTIVAL

There are a few changes to the schedule

**Floral Art** – Class 43 – Arrangement to include a figurine; Class 45 – Box of delights;  
Class 46 – Arrangement of plant material with 5 flowers; Class 47 – Novice, Table Decoration.

**Home Craft** – Class 48 – Fruit Cake; Class 49 – Victoria Sponge; Class 51 – Savoury flan/quiche;  
Class 53 – 4 Plain Scones; Class 55 – Fruit Curd.

**Photography** – Class 71 – Shadows; Class 72 – Sky; Class 73 – Coast Line; Class 74 – Cobwebs;  
Class 75 – Village Life; Class 76 – Bridges x4.

Looking forward to Spring and planting lots of seeds, hope to see you all at the Show in August

Sarah Rashley, Secretary



### POT LUCK PLANTS

#### SUPPLYING PLANTS IN EAST COKER

Violas, pansies, polyanthus, cyclamen, primroses etc and hardy foliage plants  
will all be available from Pot Luck Plants for your winter/spring  
tubs and baskets.

Colourful winter bedding can be mixed with grasses, herbs and early flowering  
spring bulbs to make beautiful, long-lasting presents

Call Kate on 07796991592 for any enquiries

Pot Luck Plants supplies Goose Slade Farm Shop

Halstock Shop & Hamish's Farm Shop

Find Pot Luck Plants on Facebook

## Young People

### EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

Finally, our extension has begun. This is thanks to the generosity of many people within the village and a £10,000 National Lottery grant. The base has been laid and the walls/roof will be built this month. We will then be able to complete the interior - new toilet area and preparation room. We will be planting two new trees behind the hut as well.

This will allow us to maintain our programme of activities with up to date facilities. As an additional benefit, our old kitchen will be refitted as an activity room. Whilst it is great to have this in hand, it is just a start. We will continue to seek funding for a new entrance, store, heaters and roof.

This all helps us deliver a great programme for our sections - beavers, cubs and scouts.

Before Christmas, the beavers had a pet session at Pets At Home and went climbing at Ready-2-Climb. They will be undertaking their Space Activity and Skills Challenge badges this term.

The cubs also went to Ready-2-Climb before finishing their 100 years of Cubs celebration year with an unique event at Wookey Hole. Our cubs were joined by St Andrew's cubs, underground, for a special service. The Yeovilton Military Wives Choir sang for the cubs and the cubs renewed their promise at 19.16



(representing the 100 years). The cubs then got to play in the witches kitchen before sharing a three-tier birthday cake.

The scouts entered two teams into the County Scout Challenge in November. This is an evening event across 12 activities testing scout skills as well as team work. Our teams came 2nd and 10th out of 40 teams. A superb result.

**Spring Jumble Sale** – Saturday 15 April at 2.00pm at East Coker Hall. Please contact Max Bugler 862186 if you wish anything collected.

### **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 28 January    Saturday 25 February    Saturday 25 March    Saturday 29 April

David Webber, Group Scout Leader.

  
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**EAST COKER PLAYGROUP** – find us on [www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk](http://www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk)

Happy New Year to everyone and what a frosty start to 2017. Perhaps there will be snow, I suspect there will be rain and hopefully sun. All types of weather will be welcome this term because the topic to focus on is weather and the seasons. Maybe we will get four seasons in one day?

Thank you for supporting the playgroup Winter Fair in November, the first time it has been held on a Saturday. The variety of craft stalls, scrumptious cake stall, refreshments and activities for children all combined to create a festive atmosphere. The funds raised from the event will go towards providing resources to support and extend the children's learning and development.

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. Children staying for lunch need to bring a packed lunch. We are open during term time at the following session times:

- Monday 9:00-12:00 - 1:00-3:00
- Tuesday 9:00-12:00 - 1:00-3:00
- Wednesday 9:00-12:00 - 1:00-3:00
- Thursday 9:00-12:00 - 1:00-3:00
- Friday 9:00-12:00 - 1:00

If you are seeking childcare for your 2-year old, East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup accepts children from their 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. 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 run 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](http://www.eastchinnockunder5spreschool.co.uk) Information about both playgroups can be found on their websites and/or by contacting Kay Strobe on 07798 812540.

## EAST COKER PRIMARY SCHOOL



I am writing this on the penultimate day of term as I listen to Reception children and their buddies walking around the school 'singing' jingle bells with added percussion accompaniment while delivering Christmas cards to everyone! It just about sums up our Autumn term – busy, lively and at times very loud, but with the children at the centre of all the action!

The Year 4 and Year 5 pupils went on a weekend residential to Osmington Bay in October. The staff were very proud of the children's teamwork skills and their confidence to try new things. They were challenged with a very long and very fast zip wire, a giant swing, abseiling and climbing, tunnelling and quad biking! I was extremely impressed with their mature and responsible attitudes and how well they supported one another through some of the more scary activities.

This term, the whole school shared the same topic called 'Explorers'. Each class found out about a famous explorer and the junior children also studied William Dampier. We celebrated the end of our topic with an open afternoon for families to come and see the children's wonderful work. The work ranged from paintings, models and musical performances to movie making!

Early in the autumn term we created 'House Teams' named after local areas. The children also appointed House Captains who lead our team meetings every week. Our houses are Pendomer, Holywell, Hardington and Burton. Every pupil in the school is a member of a house and earns house points for a range of reasons from behaviour and attitude to personal achievements. This term' Burton house were the winners and earned non-uniform day!

Our Year 6 Ambassadors have been busy this term with their responsibilities. They have been manning the office Friday lunchtimes, showing round prospective parents and working as play leaders setting up and organising lunchtime activities for our infant pupils. They are also responsible for setting up the school hall for events and recycling. They do a fantastic job and it is a great opportunity for the children to improve their confidence and develop a better understanding of being part of a community.

Our school council has been set up again this term and they have been busy looking at plans to improve the infant playground. They will be contributing to this over the next two terms.

We have also held several events to help to raise money for a number of charities this term, which includes; Click Sergeant, Children in Need and the Poppy Appeal.

And finally, we have had a wonderful festive end to the Autumn term. We have had our infant Christmas Concert in which the children were amazing and performed brilliantly. We have also had Christmas lunches and on our last day of term we had our Carol Service in the church which I am told is always a wonderful event. What better way to end my first year as Head Teacher at such a lovely school!

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Jane Hesketh-Williams, Head Teacher

# The Churches

## ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

A very happy 2017 to everyone in East Coker

I am writing to let you know of some changes to the services at St Michael and All Angels Church, East Coker. As you know, we welcomed Reverend Colin Simpson as rector to the Coker Ridge Benefice in February last year. We hope to be welcoming an Associate Priest during 2017 to assist Colin with his work across the Benefice.

Together with the Church Wardens of the Benefice, a new service pattern has been developed. This means a few changes to the services and times we have become used to over time but I hope you will welcome and where you can support the changes at St Michael's. These changes come into being in January, but as you know things are never simple and January is a month with five Sundays, something that happens around four times a year. So January will be slightly different than the other eleven months, just to confuse you more!

So I think the best way to set out the new service pattern for the rest of the year, but to set out January separately:

15 January	10am	Church Café
15 January	6pm	Evening Prayer
22 January	11am	Sung Eucharist
29 January	10am	Benefice service at West Coker

For the rest of the year, the following pattern applies:

Week 1	11am	Sung Eucharist
Week 2	8am	Holy Communion
Week 3	10am	Church Café
Week 3	6pm	Evening Prayer
Week 4	11am	Sung Eucharist

When there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month this will be Benefice Service at one of the churches.

There will be an Open Meeting at East Coker School on Thursday 12 January at 7.30pm, when the Archdeacon from the Diocese will come to discuss the future of the church in its widest sense. Everyone is most welcome to attend

Again, very best wishes for 2017, Judith Shaw, Churchwarden 863218

## Happy New Year!

As I write we are yet to have Christmas, in fact, I have barely done any shopping and only taken one Christingle service, so writing about what happens next in the church's calendar does seem a little odd, though it is just a product of copy deadlines.

After Christmas Day and New Year's Day, you may think that things quieten down for a while, but they do not. Christmas in the church lasts another four weeks yet with the first major celebration of the new calendar year coming on 6 January, when we mark The Epiphany of our Lord. You know it well, indeed will have sung about the Three Kings, and perhaps even thought that surely they could have brought some more useful gifts than gold, frankincense and myrrh!

The word epiphany means 'revelation', and these odd gifts are part of that, revealing in that odd story that Jesus is King, God and sacrifice all wrapped up into one, the gift that really does keep on giving.

February will see me complete a full year as your Rector (parish priest or vicar if you prefer) and also mark the beginning of a new phase in the lives of your churches. We, together with our Bishops, are keen to understand what is most important for us to be doing in service to this part of God's world and for His people who live here, and part of this will be asking you what you think. Look out for our open-days in the late spring and early summer where you will be invited to meet with us and tell us what you need from us, but I also invite you to contact me directly, or to complete a short survey to provide similar information.

Please let us know so that over time we can become the church that you and God would have us be.

Fr. Colin.

Reverend Colin Simpson, Rector of the Coker Ridge Benefice – Closworth, East Chinnock, East Coker, Hardington, Pendomer, Sutton Bingham and West Coker.

**Details of contact phone and email below:**

- Rev. Colin Simpson email [rector42@icloud.com](mailto:rector42@icloud.com) tel 862429 - Website [www.cokerridge.org.uk](http://www.cokerridge.org.uk)
- Judith Shaw, Church Warden, email [judith.shaw.foxholes@gmail.com](mailto:judith.shaw.foxholes@gmail.com) tel 863218
- Ellie Farr Children's worker email [eleonorfarr@outlook.com](mailto:eleonorfarr@outlook.com) tel 07745 216811

**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, SUTTON BINGHAM**

At Sutton Bingham in 2017, there is no change to services apart from the later time on the third Sunday.

We will continue to have First Sunday of the month 9.15am Holy Communion (no hymns) Prayer Book and the Third Sunday of the month 11.00am Holy Communion (with hymns) Prayer Book

Unfortunately our electric organ 'blew up' just before the Carol Service. Alison Charles therefore led the whole service brilliantly using the old American organ – foot-pumps and all. We had a full church as usual, who enjoyed the traditional carols and mince-pies and mulled wine afterwards.

If anyone knows of a small organ in good working order, we would be most grateful to be able to acquire it.

Many thanks to everyone who continues to support Sutton Bingham, mostly from other parishes.

Our treasurer, Carolyn Chapman, has moved to Herefordshire, so we are in urgent need of a replacement, and in my 37th year as either Secretary, Treasurer or Churchwarden, it would be marvellous to find somebody to share the load.

Sutton Bingham is not hard work and we look forward to our twice monthly services with joy – but, as with most churches, we will suffer most seriously if the church's existence continues to be taken for granted.

It is wonderful to see the churches full at Christmas and Easter and for weddings and funerals, but during the rest of the year the day to day running and keeping the churches open falls on the shoulders of a diminishing and (unfortunately) ageing volunteer force.

Heather Snook (Church Warden)

**EAST COKER CHAPEL, BURTON LANE BA22 9LJ**

We hope you all have had a great time celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

Our morning worship service (which incorporates 'kid's church') is held each Sunday morning at 11.00am. Led by our own worship band we have mainly new songs and some traditional ones, usually with a guest speaker, it lasts for about an hour and is always followed by coffee and biscuits. However, on the first Sunday of each month, we hold our cafe/breakfast church at East Coker Hall from 11.00am onwards, come and enjoy church but not as you know it. Cafe church is an informal, relaxed café-style gathering where you can enjoy freshly-brewed coffee, tea, croissants, cereal and toast.

Little Wheelers baby and toddler group is held on Tuesday mornings at East Coker Hall at 10.30am, all mums, dads and grandparents welcome.

Coffee Stop is held at the Chapel on a Wednesday morning from 11.00am where anyone is welcome to pop in for free tea and coffee and friendship.

We hold a Girls' Night on the 4th Thursday evening of the month at the Chapel starting on 23 February at 7.30pm. These evenings are intended for girls/ladies of any age, we have a light supper followed by either a craft or cooking demonstration or a short talk or life story.

We have currently two home groups running which meet fortnightly.

For further details of any of the above please contact either Phil & Liz Dunning on 863735 or Joe Dunning on 07800 746454

## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, CLOSWORTH

For many years now we have held an All Ages Family service at Closworth on Good Friday, 14 April. This Service begins at 10.00am, and lasts about 40 minutes and has hymns, reading, prayers and a short talk. It ends hopefully with Cold Cross Buns and coffee. There is a children's activity during the talk.

Details from Monica 862834

## Village News

### LIBRARY

Below are the details of mobile library stops in East Coker at The Helyar Arms on a Tuesday, every four weeks from 12.40pm – 12.55pm.

24 January      21 February      21 March      18 April

### THE VILLAGE CAFE

Firstly, we would like to wish all our customers a very Happy New Year, may 2017 bring us joy.

We would also like to say a huge thank you for your enthusiasm, since we opened in November. We have felt incredibly supported by the Village. It has been lovely getting to know so many locals, our vibrant WiFi Club, The Parish Councillors, Neighbours, Dog Walkers, Builders, Ramblers, Cyclists and everyone at the Primary School.

We have listened to your feedback and now offer Gluten-free cakes, vegetarian sausages and alternative hot meals, alongside our 'Meatier Specials'.

From March, we will be serving Sunday Roasts from 12.00pm – 3.00pm. Bookings being taken from February - time to enjoy a glass of wine and let us do the cooking!

Once again, Happy New Year To You All! Tania & Kieta

### THE TRIANGLE

In the autumn it had a make-over when all the old herbaceous geraniums were pulled up and lavender cuttings (*Lavandula angustifolia* 'Hidcote') put in. Most lavender thrives on poor soils and is fairly drought-tolerant so should flourish in these conditions.

100 mixed Cornish daffodil bulbs were planted in the plot along with a few of the short Pipit variety. They came direct from Fentongollan Farm on Lord Falmouth's Tregothnan estate at St Michael Penkivel in the far west. The clumps of grey-green felted leaves of *Lychnis coronaria*, under the signpost were grown from seed and kindly donated by Glenis Bowditch. As their bright vivid pink or red summer flowers are attractive to butterflies it's to be hoped they survive the winter. Wallflowers came from SSDC's Lufton nurseries. With Darren's help a thick covering of compost was laid overall.

Over the years *Cyclamen Coum*, the hardy winter-flowering cyclamen has slowly spread from a single specimen and both a pink and a white form of *Cyclamen Cilicium* return every autumn.

The Parish Council is responsible for funding most of The Triangle's plant material.

Kathryn Sturtridge

### EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

**Christmas Carols** This year the tree had a new star at the top, and the Paddock grounds had been lit for safety. We had over 300 people attend the Christmas Eve Carol singing around the tree and thanks go out to Ted and friends on the Brass Instruments, Simon and Ella Kearvell, for a wonderful solo, Phil and Di Miskin for donating the tree, Rod and Annette Beardsley for supplying the electricity, and Robert, Michael, David and Richard Mead for installing the tree. £165.82p was raised for South West Children's Hospice. Thank you for donating so generously.



**Signage** A finger sign has been installed at the T-junction of Mill Lane and Furlong Lane, directing towards the Pavilion and Sports Fields.

If you see the **Ranger**, Darren, working in and around the Parish, a cuppa would be most welcome. If you see anything that needs his attention, please contact Chairman B. Sugg, 863435 (no calls after 6.00pm please).

**East Coker Ward** Natasha Hopkins is now the New East Coker Councillor. We welcome her to the Council. Her roles and responsibilities will be announced shortly.

**Nash Lane dog bin** is overflowing due to local residents putting dog waste from gardens into the bin. Please refrain from doing so.

**Drainage** 68 drains have now been cleared. If you have a drain outside your house, would you please try and keep them clear of any debris. Thank you.

**Website** The new website is now up and running, [www.eastcokerparish.com](http://www.eastcokerparish.com) A photo competition to be announced shortly.

**Grant Aids** are available from the East Coker Parish Council, from April, for the benefit of East Coker Groups and Societies. If you have a parish group which would benefit, please email the Clerk for further details or download the application form from our website. The grants last year were given to Little Wheelers Toddler Group for equipment, The Primary School, Scout Group and Time to Share to purchase a projector, which will be stored at the East Coker Hall, for all Parish societies and groups to use at the Hall, Church or Pavilion. Contact Sandra Snelling on 862162 or Anne Hartley on 862060.

We have an issue in the Parish with '**fly tipping**'. If you see any rubbish that has been dumped illegally, please contact the Clerk.

Maintenance of the **Chapel** is ongoing. Further updates to follow.

## **DRAFT EAST COKER PLAN PUBLISHED FOR CONSULTATION!**

After many months of preparation over a period of years that has involved surveys, local consultation events, discussions with local authorities and others, the Draft East Coker Neighbourhood Plan has been formally published for consultation. This will involve asking a wide range of local and national organisations for their comments on the plan as well as providing another opportunity for local people to express their views.

The Plan has been prepared by a local group on behalf the Parish Council and has taken account of views expressed by the local community through surveys, questionnaires and other consultation events over the past few years. The group has also engaged with the District and County Councils, as well as other agencies.

The Plan will complement the South Somerset Local Plan, providing more detail, and local policies and will be used to help make recommendations on future planning applications in the Parish. As well as the detailed local planning policies, the Plan includes the Proposals Map which shows:

- Some areas proposed as Local Greenspace
- The existing Conservation Areas in the historic core of North and East Coker, as well some important views and vistas which it considered should be retained.
- An indication of sites that currently have planning permission for housing.

**It is planned that the 8 week consultation period will end on Monday 20 March 2017, although this is subject to confirmation and notices will be placed around the Parish when the plan is published. All comments must be submitted by this end date.**

Copies of the Plan with Comments Forms will be 'On Deposit' in the East Coker Hall, the Helyar Arms, the Forester's Arms, St Michael's Church and the Village Cafe. Please note that these are **not to be taken away**, or other residents will be deprived of their right to read them. Parish, District and County Councillors have also been given copies.

Comments on the Plan should be written on the form attached to this newsletter and on the website and returned to [clerk@eastcokerparish.com](mailto:clerk@eastcokerparish.com) or by posted to the Clerk to East Coker Parish Council, 5 Long Furlong Lane, East Coker, BA22 9LQ.

**Councillors contact details** are on our website, [www.eastcokerparish.com](http://www.eastcokerparish.com). The Parish Clerk, Gillian Macpherson, can be reached on 864354 or email [clerk@eastcokerparish.com](mailto:clerk@eastcokerparish.com).

The Parish Council hold a **monthly meeting**, every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 7.00pm at the Pavilion. It is a public meeting to discuss planning and other issues affecting the Parish. You are all welcome to attend. If you would like to speak at the meeting, please contact the Clerk.

**Email circulation list.** If you would like to be kept up-to-date with regular news and events around the Parish, please email the Clerk. Your email address will not be made public or used by any other third party.

**East Coker Neighbourhood Plan – Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012  
Consultation under Regulation 14**

**Comments Form for the Neighbourhood Plan**

<b>Name:</b> <b>Address:</b>  <b>Postcode</b> <b>Contact Details: Email.....Phone</b> <b>No.....</b>		
<i>Page no.</i>	<i>Para no. or Policy</i>	<i>Comments</i>

Please return to [clerk@eastcoker.com](mailto:clerk@eastcoker.com) by 20 March 2017 or post to 5 Long Furlong Lane, East Coker, BA22 9LQ

East Coker Neighbourhood Plan **OPEN DAY SATURDAY 11 MARCH 2017** Dampier Room, East Coker Hall, **10.00am - 12.00 noon**



### **EAST COKER CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

A big thank you to all those who helped with this year's Christmas Lunch, especially those that did the cooking, helped set up the Hall, and waited on the tables. for the enjoyment of everyone who ate a most delicious lunch. We raised £1,000, which will be split between the South West Children's Hospice and the Air Ambulance.

We are looking for more volunteers, please, to help carry on this lovely tradition.

Di Miskin 862854

### **WEA – Women Gardeners of the Twentieth Century**

Starting on Thursday 26 January for seven sessions, 2.00pm – 4.00pm, at the Dampier Room, East Coker Hall, a course called Storm Warning, about weather forecasts and understanding the weather.

The Tutor is Charles Jessep. The cost is £52.

To register, or book a place, telephone 0845 4582758 or email [www.wea.org.uk](http://www.wea.org.uk)

Local contact - Vivienne Ford 01935 863954

### **BST**

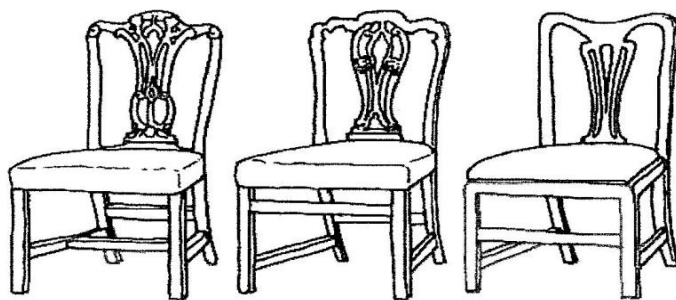
British Summer Time begins Sunday 26 March 2017. The clocks go forward one hour.

### **NEXT ISSUE**

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **April 2017**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or email [l.lindsay@eastcoker.com](mailto:l.lindsay@eastcoker.com), by **Wednesday 22 March 2017**

# KEN MARSH

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**Telephone EAST COKER 01935 862907  
or mobile 07790 759162**

Thurs 12 Jan	Gardening Club – Low Maintenance Gardening	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 12 Mar	St Michael's Church Meeting	7.30pm	The School
Mon 16 Jan	Time To Share – Sound of Music & Lunch	12.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 19 Jan	W.I. – Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 21 Jan	Wine Circle – Burns Night	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 24 Jan	Library	12.40pm – 12.55pm	The Helyar Arms
Wed 25 Jan	FilmFlix – Love & Friendship	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 26 Jan	W.I. – Fairground History	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 27 Jan	Coffee Morning – Help for Heroes	10.00am – 12.00pm	The Forester's
Sat 28 Jan	Scouts – Waste Paper Collection	8.30am – 10.30am	Near the School
Mon 30 Jan	Time To Share – Your Favourite Things	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 31 Jan	Poetry Group – Open Meeting	7.30pm	The Helyar Arms
Wed 1 Feb	Wine Circle – Castle Gardens	N.B. - 7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 6 Feb	W.I. – Fun & Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 9 Feb	Gardening Club – Michael Jordan	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 13 Feb	Time To Share – Westland Singers	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 16 Feb	W.I. – Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 21 Feb	Library	12.40pm – 12.55pm	The Helyar Arms
Wed 22 Feb	FilmFlix – Bridget's Jones Baby	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 23 Feb	W.I. – Three Weeks in Nepal	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 24 Feb	Coffee Morning – RNLI	10.00am – 12.00pm	The Forester's
Sat 25 Feb	Scouts – Waste Paper Collection	8.30am – 10.30am	Near the School
Mon 27 Feb	Time To Share – Old Yeovil	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 28 Feb	Poetry – Greek Evening	7.30pm	The Helyar Arms
Wed 1 Mar	Wine Circle – Burrows Hill Cider	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 6 Mar	W.I. – Fun & Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 9 Mar	Gardening Club – David Usher	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 11 Mar	Village Quiz	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 11 Mar	Neighbour Plan Open Day	10.00am – 12.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 11 Mar	W.I. – Jumble Sale	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 13 Mar	Time To Share – Nuts & Crackers	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 16 Mar	W.I. – Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 20 Mar	Neighbour Plan – Return Form		
Tues 21 Mar	Library	12.40pm – 12.55pm	The Helyar Arms
<b>Wed 22 Mar</b>	<b>Copy for April Newsletter</b>		
Sat 25 Mar	Scouts – Waste Paper Collection	8.30am – 10.30am	Near the School
Mon 27 Mar	Time to Share – Mother's Day S Africa	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 28 Mar	Poetry Group – Sherborne Poets	7.30pm	The Helyar Arms
Wed 29 Mar	Film Flix – Café Society	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 30 Mar	W.I. – AGM	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 31 Mar	Coffee morning – Cystic Fibrosis	10.00am – 12.00pm	The Forester's
Mon 3 Apr	W.I. – Fun & Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 5 Apr	Wine Circle – Bulgarian Wine-Tasting	8.00pm	East Coker Hall