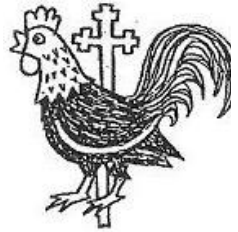


East Coker Society Newsletter



January 2018

Free Issue No 169

| | | |
|---|--------|--|
| Chair: John Sugg: | 863435 | |
| Secretary: Sarah Owen: | 862218 | |
| Treasurer and Distributor: Martin Wells | 864198 | |
| Newsletter Editor: Lesley Lindsay | 862868 | l.lindsay@eastcoker.com |

East Coker Society News

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

We are happy to report that East Coker Society's Annual Winter Fayre on 28 October 2017 was a great success, raising £779. Thank you for supporting us, whether you were a stall-holder, helper or visitor. It is one of those community events which everyone enjoys, and it presents an opportunity to purchase original gifts as well as supporting a number of local organisations and charities.

We hope to announce the date for the 2018 Fayre in our April edition.

Sarah Owen (Secretary)

Village Clubs and Organisations

BURTON BOOK CLUB

We are a small friendly group who meet once a month on a Wednesday afternoon at Goose Slade Farm Tea Shop at 2.00pm. We pay £1.00 per month for books, which we get from the library, and £2.00 into a kitty for drinks, and when funds allow we have a free month. A lively discussion takes place on the merits or otherwise of the current book, and we mark them out of ten on content and enjoyment.

Recent Reads: Edith Cavell - a biography by Diana Souhami; The Shepherd's Life: a Tale of the Lake District by James Rebanks; A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens.

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

EAST COKER VILLAGE QUIZ 2018

The 13th Annual Village Quiz will be held in East Coker Hall on Saturday 10 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 Early Train team.

The number of teams is limited by the size of the Hall, and the size of each team is restricted 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. The ticket price will be £10 per head and payment with bookings will be much appreciated.

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

EAST COKER PLAYERS

Happy New Year to you all.

We hope you enjoyed our Pantomime, Aladdin. The cast had great fun and are already looking forward to the next one. We would like to thank everyone who supported us last year and especially those who helped behind the scenes.

In December, we held a successful Bingo Evening with lots of seasonal prizes. John Langdon kept us in order as the caller.

At our Annual General Meeting in January, we will be discussing how we will use the money raised from both events and which charities will benefit

Players meet on the first Monday of the month in the Dampier Room and we welcome anyone interested in joining us, minimum age 8 years. Our programme of events will be posted on notice boards soon.

For further information, contact Anne Hartley 862060 or Hazel Giddings 429163

Rake's Progress



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THE COKER 400 CLUB SPRING DRAW

Autumn

Cdr P Pisani £100; John Carter £50; Peter Cameron £40; Mr P Pritchard £30; Mrs Anne Cameron £20; Russell Chatwin £15; Mrs Edna Mitchell £10.

Winter

Mrs S Branson £100; Lady Leng £50; Mr R Tower £40; John Burgess £30; Mrs A Davidge £20; Mr and Mrs J Cooper £15; Ken McIver £10.

If anyone would like to join the 400 Club, please contact Mary Ashley 862263, Arthur Rees 862828 or Mike Weston 862472.

The annual subs are £20 payable quarterly (if by bank standing order) or annually (if by cash or cheque).

Mike Weston

TIME TO SHARE

We have had a busy time at Time to Share and a sad one as well, with many of our members becoming ill and unable to get along to the Monday afternoon get-togethers. We have lost a few members too. We had a wonderful Christmas Party and Lunch in December at the Village Cafe for 30 of our members, who were wined and dined by Keita and Steve in a beautiful, warm, welcoming Cafe. Afterwards, we sang, and laughed with Roy Hodder and his music group. It was all lovely and everybody had a super time.

We could do with some more members though. Give me a ring on 862162 if you are interested, and I can tell you what we get up to.


Our thanks to Barbara Cloke and her team of volunteer car drivers, who are just marvellous, driving around the village and picking people up in all weathers. And as for the home made cakes! Just amazing! Thank you so much all of you for your help and support.

Sandra Snelling

Diary dates 2018

- Monday 15 January Take Note (singing)
- Monday 29 January Just Games
- Monday 12 February Line Dancing
- Monday 26 February Old Yeovil
- Monday 12 March Why do we collect Bottle Tops?
- Monday 26 March W.I. Games (exercise) and Easter Bonnets
- Monday 2 April EASTER

Sandra Snelling



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EAST COKER HALL CHARITABLE TRUST

Many of you are probably familiar with the East Coker Hall and use it on a regular basis. It is one of the largest in the area, and has extremely good facilities and ample parking. The management committee is currently working on plans for a thorough clean, redecoration of some areas and replacement of some of the flooring. You may have noticed that the kitchen has been redecorated and now looks much improved. Those of you who used the Hall over the Christmas period will hopefully have appreciated and enjoyed the efforts made by the Hall Committee 'decorating team'.

Many thanks must also go to the Little Wheelers, whose decorations gave the finishing touch to the tree.

Information on the Hall and details of how to hire it are available on the Hall website, <http://eastcokervillagehall.co.uk>

FILMFLIX – Films at East Coker Hall



The East Coker film season recommenced last September with *Hidden Figures*, followed by *Their Finest* in October and *Viceroy's House* in November. Hopefully, those of you who supported the film nights enjoyed these screenings. Film Night is always the last Wednesday of each month. There was no film in December, but we will be back again on the last Wednesday in January 2018 with *The Levelling*, followed in February by *My Cousin Rachel* and in March by *Victoria and Abdul*. Please try to support the film nights which are put on for the benefit of the community. A lot of effort is put in by a few people, and we need to at least break even for each screening.

Wednesday 31 January – *The Levelling - Somerset, England* Trainee veterinarian Clover Catto returns to the farm where she grew up after hearing news that her brother Harry has died - an apparent suicide. Finding the family home in ruins following recent floods that devastated the area, Clover is forced to confront her difficult father Aubrey about the farm, the livestock and, crucially, the details surrounding Harry's death. As the funeral approaches, Clover's discoveries send her on an emotional journey of reckoning - with the land, her family and herself.

Wednesday 28 February – *My Cousin Rachel* A dark romance, based on the novel by Daphne du Maurier, tells the story of a young Englishman who plots revenge against his mysterious, beautiful cousin, believing that she murdered his guardian. But his feelings become complicated as he finds himself falling under the beguiling spell of her charms. Starring Rachel Weisz, Sam Claflin, Holliday Grainger, directed by Roger Michell.

Wednesday 28 March – *Victoria and Abdul* Based on Shrabani Basu's book *Victoria & Abdul*. The True Story of the Queen's Closest Confidant, this period piece is about Queen Victoria's latter life. It's 1887, and the British Empire is celebrating Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Among the kings and princes in attendance is Abdul Karim, a young clerk who has travelled to the event from his famine-ravaged India to present the aging monarch with a ceremonial coin. As the Queen questions the constrictions of her long-held position, the two forge an unlikely and devoted alliance with a loyalty to one another that her household and inner circle all attempt to destroy. As the friendship deepens, the Queen begins to see a changing world through new eyes, and joyfully reclaims her humanity.

Starring Judi Dench, Ali Fazal, Tim Piggott-Smith, directed by Stephen Frears.

Showings commence at 7.30pm. Doors open 7.00pm. Entry £6 per person.

For further details, contact 01935 863002 or 01935 862447



EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

The Club held its AGM in November at the Red House, where a buffet carvery was enjoyed by those members attending. Our Chairperson of many years, Kath Wilson, resigned. Kath put a huge amount of effort and work into the club, which has ensured its continued success. She was presented with a flower arrangement and garden vouchers. Elected onto the committee were Gill Evans (our new chairperson), Stan Shayler (Treasurer), Yvonne Shayler and Helen Styles. The December meeting had a Christmas theme; two lovely ladies, Claire Sydenham and Adelaide Brown, entertained us with music, carols and a Christmas-themed quiz which had members' thinking caps on, and which ended in a tie breaker.

The programme for the next few months:

- Thursday 11 January **Twelve Months of Colour** – Neil Lovesey
- Thursday 8 February **Companion Planting** – Talk given by the Gold Club
- Thursday 8 March **'Lift the Latch'-33 years of creating an all year round garden** – Talk by Pauline and David Wright
- Thursday 12 April **Hestercombe - Restoration of the Edwardian and Victorian Gardens**
Given by a Speaker from Hestercombe

Day trips planned for 2018

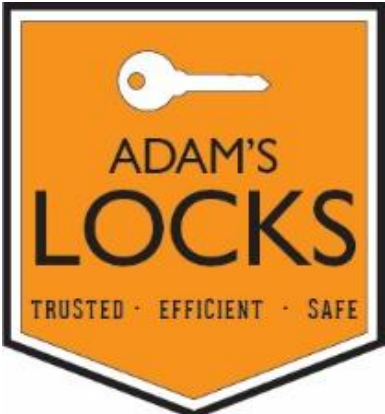
Wednesday 23 May – Hestercombe Gardens, Taunton

Wednesday 25 July – Longstock Park Nursery, Stockbridge, followed by Heale Gardens, Salisbury.

Non-members are welcome to join the day trips – please contact Stan Shayler for details.

The Annual Four-day Holiday for 2018 has been fully subscribed. The small committee does an excellent job of planning the programme, making every effort to ensure that the majority of members are able to benefit from most of the talks, events and trips.

Meetings, day 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.





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EAST COKER BOWLS CLUB

The Bowls Club meets every Tuesday evening, 7.30pm - 9.30pm and Friday afternoons 2.30pm - 4.30pm in East Coker Hall.

We are a friendly club and are looking for 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?

For more information, check out our website www.eastcokershortmatbowlsclub.btck.co.uk or telephone our Club Captain, George Dudden on 01935 864222.

D Farrant - Club Chairman

THE EAST COKER BULK OIL PURCHASE SCHEME – JULY 2017

I've left it until the last minute and the muse is still on her New Year break, so it's just the usual stuff this time. Speaking for myself, I haven't used much oil so far this winter, but as I've said before, I'm a bit of a skinflint. So my tank doesn't need a top-up. If yours does, then why not join in with our consortium and save trouble and a bit of money? In July, 69 of us (about half as many again as ever before) filled our tanks with 62,950 litres of heating oil. The price was 33.70 pence per litre (+ VAT), that's 0.75ppl less than the best price for 1,000 litres, but 3.35ppl less than the worst. Do the sums – even $\frac{3}{4}$ pence per litre for 1,000 litres adds up.

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 01935 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 24 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.

Paul Edwards

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH

The Branch 2017 Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning was held at West Coker Commemoration Hall on Saturday 7 October. A successful event raising over £650.00, a great start to the 2017 Appeal. Thank-you to all helpers and the many friends who called in from the five villages in the East Coker district. To date our total has reached £8,355.13 – a record.

East Coker's total amounted to £3,516.10, an increase of £321.52 from 2016. Thank-you to all our house-to-house collectors, especially those collecting for the first time. A very warm welcome to you.

A lot of you will be aware that the late Jimmy New was one of our collectors along with his wife Helen and their son Tobias. Helen has said she wishes to continue next year in Jimmy's memory.

St Michael's church was full for his funeral service, it was Helen's and the family's wish that the £1,352.83 so generously given be donated to the Royal British Legion East & West Coker Branch.

It will then be used to support our local Service families, dependants and veterans, plus Somerset Legion House and Dunkirk Memorial House. Jimmy will not be forgotten.

I thank you all for your continued support and generosity.

Note for diaries – Our Annual Cheese & Wine Evening is on Friday 20 April at East Coker Hall at 7.30pm.

David Holland, Chairman d.holland632@btinternet.com Secretary, Marilyn Smith 863944.

EAST COKER POETRY GROU

Winter Open Evening – Tuesday 30 January 2018

A meeting open to anyone to read a poem or two. Bring some poems to read or just come and listen and enjoy the ambiance. These meetings are always popular

Walking Wounded – The Poetry of Vernon Scannell (1922–2007) – Tuesday, 27 February 2018

As with many poets before and since, Scannell's prize-winning poetry – which covered topics ranging from love, war, ageing, fear, remorse, and even verse for children – seems to have sprung from the fertile soil of a disturbed and damaged life. Yet his verse, greatly admired by the likes of Seamus Heaney, is written in an accessible style, often laced with an engaging dry humour.

Jem Langworthy, who copy-edited his biography for Oxford University Press, presents an evening about this British poet and author.

Our meetings are held at the Helyar Arms, East Coker, and normally start at 7.30pm on the last Tuesday of the month.

For more information about the East Coker Poetry Group, contact David Cloke, Group Co-ordinator, 862623 email info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk. Please check our website for the most up to date details of any meeting www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk

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EAST COKER MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

2017 ended well with the October event for Children in Need raising £297 (there was no event in November or December). Due to the generosity of everyone who came to the events in 2017, the total raised during the year amounted to £3,316 (compared to £2,722 in 2016).

The forthcoming events will be for

- Friday 26 January – Help for Heroes
- Friday 23 February – RNLI
- Friday 23 March – Cystic Fibrosis
- Friday 27 April – Apollo Swimming Club for Physically Disabled

If you know anyone who would like to hold a coffee morning for a charity on a future date, 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

Children In Need – Coffee Morning

We would like to thank everyone who supported the coffee morning at the Forester's Arms on 27 October; your generosity raised £297. Along with the Book Stall that we ran at the Winter Fayre, which raised £111, we were able to send £408 towards this worthwhile charity. Every penny raised goes towards supporting UK children in the main. All administrative and other costs are met from investments and this is the reason we choose to support this charity.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all the hard work Penny, Cherry, Derek and Martin put into these events every month and, of course, The Forester's Arms for allowing these charity events to take place. We would like to say a special thank-you to Maggie and Pete Wood for running the Book Stall at the Winter Fayre in our absence, as you can see they did a grand job.

Don & Barbs Nicol.

EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

East Coker Wine Circle would like to say Happy New Year to everyone.

Meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month at the East Coker Hall at 8.00pm unless otherwise advised.

New Year's Programme

No meeting in January.

Wednesday 7 February

Wednesday 7 March

Saturday 24 March

Wednesday 4 April

Friday 6 April

Tasting by Piddle Beer


In-house activity

40th Anniversary Celebratory Dinner

Music and Flower Quiz by Adelaide Brown

Top Hat, Octagon Theatre

Looking forward to seeing you all, Sarah Rashley




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ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

We held our very popular Diva Lunch back in October at The Tithe Barn at the Haselbury Mill and had a record attendance of 230 ladies who enjoyed a lovely meal, some retail therapy and entertainment by 'Gary Barlow'. A great time was had by all and we made £8,500 profit which is truly amazing. Thank you to everyone who supported us in any way.

Details of this year's Cream Tea delivery will be in the next newsletter.

For further information, please contact me on 01935 478409 or janedonnelly81@outlook.com

EAST COKER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Our big year has arrived. We are celebrating our centenary. On the 18 June 1918, eighteen East Coker ladies (whose husbands were still fighting or had been killed in the 1st World war) met to discuss the possibility of forming a branch of the Women's Institute in East Coker - just three years after the formation of the first Women's Institute in Great Britain. This branch has flourished ever since. Initially, the aim was to educate women with domestic classes and basic hygiene. The soling of boots and shoes with old tyres and making of gloves from rabbit skins were some of the earliest subjects, along with dress-making, dancing and singing. Our subjects have altered as time has passed, but the overall aim has stayed constant with education and comradeship very prominent.

The subjects for this year's Spring Programme are as follows. In January, we hear about the history of Fairgrounds, in February the Phelps of Montacute, in March we hold our Annual Meeting, and in April we have an executive of Yeovil Hospital speak to us.

Whist Drives, which are open to anyone who would like to join in, are held in the evening on the third Thursday of the month in the Dampier Room, with many prizes being awarded.

Fun and Games are also an extra event held once a month on a Monday afternoon. These sessions are open to anyone over the age of 50 years to encourage fitness whilst having fun. Just £2.50 gives participants two hours of enjoyment, and includes refreshments.

Our yearly Jumble Sale will be held on Saturday 10 March at East Coker Hall at 2.00pm.

Please see diary for dates for any of the above. Any other queries, please contact the Secretary, Ruby Rollo tel 475010

Diary dates

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Monday 8 January | Fun and Games | 2.00pm – East Coker Hall |
| Thursday 18 January | Whist Drive | 7.30pm – Dampier Room |
| Thursday 25 January | Fairground history | 7.30pm – East Coker Hall |
| Monday 5 February | Fun and Games | 2.00pm – East Coker Hall |
| Thursday 15 February | Whist Drive | 7.30pm – Dampier Room |
| Thursday 22 February | The Phelps of Montacute | 7.30pm - East Coker Hall |
| Monday 5 March | Fun and Games | 2.00pm – East Coker Hall |
| Saturday 10 March | Jumble Sale | 2.00pm – East Coker Hall |
| Thursday 15 March | Whist Drive | 7.30pm – Dampier Room |
| Thursday 29 March | Annual Meeting | 7.30pm – East Coker Hall |

Young People

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

As we continue our refurbishment, all the windows in the scout hut have been double glazed. This has had an immediate improvement on the internal temperature - one week it was even warmer in the scout hut than outside; this rarely happens.

The hot water system is now fully connected to both kitchen and the toilet area.

Unfortunately, our gas heaters finally gave up last year, so we need better heating. Fortunately, we have been successful in the Aviva Community Fund (subject to due diligence - final notification is mid-January). Many thanks to everyone who voted for us! We will use the £1,000 to install new heaters; we just need to find the best solution.

There is still plenty to improve, such as the new entrance, store and replacement roof. We were not down selected in the National Lottery/ITV People's Project, so fund raising will continue as usual. The Autumn Jumble Sale resulted in over £800 raised - thank you to all helpers and everyone who donated items for sale.

Both the Beavers and Cubs visited Tesco in November and experienced their Farm to Fork Trail around the store. This enabled them to try fruit, ham, cheese and sausage plus going behind the main store area.

Last term, the Beavers made Christmas decorations, painted pine cones and leaf prints amongst many boisterous games.

The Cubs made dens out of branches in Mike's Woods and attended the District Cubs Badge Day.

The Cubs and Beavers held their Christmas parties at Ready-2-Climb. The Scouts successfully cooked pancakes at Max's Field and held an air-rifle shooting evening at Great Lyde scout hall. Our team won the County Challenge event in November, beating 30 other patrols from across Somerset.

Two Scouts have achieved their Gold Chief Scouts Award - well done to Clare and Ollie.

The next World Scout Jamboree will be held in the USA in July-August 2019. We have a number of scouts who will be hoping to be selected to represent the county - selection events will be held in February and March.

Spring Jumble Sale: Saturday 24 March 2.00 pm at East Coker Hall.

Please contact Max Bugler 862186 if you wish anything collected in the week before the jumble sale.

Waste Paper Collection


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 27 January

Saturday 24 February


Saturday 31 March

David Webber, Group Scout Leader



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Happy New Year to everyone! East Coker Preschool would like to extend a massive thank you to everyone who supported the Annual Christmas Fair fundraiser in November, just under £1,000 was raised to support the Preschool.

The Preschool was extremely busy in the last few weeks before the Christmas holiday. The children made gifts for their family, a 2018 calendar, a festive Robin made out of a pine cone, assorted felt shapes associated with birds (some of which refused to glue onto the cone - much hilarity) and Christmas cards. The children performed a fabulous Christmas Show to their parents and carers. On the last day of term, the children enjoyed a wonderful party, and Father Christmas popped in to the setting to make a visit.

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 years. We accept 2 year old funding, 15 hour Universal Early Years Entitlement, Extended Entitlement 30 hour free childcare, Tax Free Childcare and Childcare Vouchers. For more information on support with childcare costs, please visit the Childcare Choices website which makes it easy to find out what's on offer. Use the Childcare Calculator at www.gov.uk/childcare-calculator to see what offers are available to support you and your family. To find out more about the new and existing offers, and how they can help you, go to the Childcare Choices website www.childcarechoices.gov.uk.

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 | 1:00-3:00 |

Children staying for lunch need to bring a packed lunch. Please enquire about extended opening hours (8.00am-4.00pm).

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

If you are seeking childcare for your 2-year old, East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup accepts children from their 2nd birthday to starting school. For the past few years, the staff at East Coker Playgroup also staff East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup, both Playgroups feed into East Coker Primary School. 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

Information about both Playgroups can be found on their web sites and/or by contacting Kay Strode on 07798 812540.

The Churches

EAST COKER CHAPEL, BURTON LANE, BA22 9LJ

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 café/breakfast church at East Coker Hall from 11.00am onwards, come and enjoy church but not as you know it. Café 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.

Afternoon Tea Break on the first Thursday of the month from 2.00pm – 4.30pm. Meet with friends old and new www.eastcokerchapel.com

Coffee Stop is held at the Chapel on every Wednesday morning from 11.00am **except the 1st Wednesday of each month**. All welcome to pop in for coffee, tea, friendship and a chat.

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.

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

A little late, but nevertheless a very Happy New Year to you all from St Michael's.

Christmas seems a long time ago now but we enjoyed several services at St Michael's over the Christmas period, which were well attended. There was also a very successful Messy Church held in the East Coker Hall, led by our Children's Worker, Emma.

A reminder that our Service rota at St Michael's is as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1 st Sunday | 10.45am Sunday School 11am - Sung Eucharist |
| 2 nd Sunday | 8am – Holy Communion 11am – Morning Prayer |
| 3 rd Sunday | 10am – Café Church 6pm – Evensong |
| 4 th Sunday | 11am- Sung Eucharist |

Café Church on the third Sunday of each month is a very informal get-together led by Jacqueline Clough and Emma. There are always plenty of activities for children to join in with.

Emma also continues to lead an after school club at East Coker Primary School on Friday afternoons.

Another Messy Church is planned for Easter time on Saturday 31 March in the East Coker Hall. If you would like more information about these and other events planned for children by Emma, please contact her by email allangelscwl@outlook.com.

There will be a Morning Prayer Service for Mothering Sunday on Sunday 11 March at 11.00am. Please join us with your families for this special service.

There will be a service at St Michael's on Easter Sunday – more details will be available nearer the time, as will other Easter time services. Please look in the church, on the bus stop notice board or contact me for details.

St Michael's contact details:

Rev. Colin Simpson – rector42@icloud.com and tel 862429

Judith Shaw Churchwarden – judith.foxholes@gmail.com and tel 863218

Bells

What a joy it is to hear the bells as we stagger up the hill to the Church on a Sunday or hear a joyous peal after a wedding. Having tried ringing, I know how hard it is and how much practice is needed to ring a peal. Thank you to all who call us to Church, and thank you to all the bell-ringers. One of the youngest ringers, Freya has just been elected to Bath & Wells Diocesan Association of Change Ringers. Well done for somebody so young. Freya not only rings at East Coker but has been called to ring at several other Churches. Monica

ALL SAINTS', CLOS WORTH

Thank you to everybody who supported the Nativity on Christmas Eve. I am sorry not everybody got a seat! The children were super and managed to sing the whole of Away in a Manger by themselves. It brought tears to my eyes. Baby Jesus slept sweetly during the whole service even during the last carol,

'See Him Lie', during which the children played musical instruments, and the sound was heard in East Coker! Thanks for making my 18th Nativity so special.

Good Friday

Easter is a long way off but hopefully there will be an 'All Ages' Family Service on Good Friday, 30 March at 10.00am followed by Cold Cross Buns, and there will be a Communion Service on Easter Sunday at 10.15am. Please check nearer the time.

A Happy New Year to everybody and thanks for all your support to my efforts over the years.

Monica 862834.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, SUTTON BINGHAM

Thank you to everyone who has supported services at Sutton Bingham in 2017.

We have been rather thin on the ground at times and we have had to cancel some services during Rev. Colin Simpson's holidays as we are not always able to find clergy cover, but above all Rev. Trevor Farmiloe has been exceptionally supportive in taking services.

Our two Christmas services were extremely well attended with an overflowing church at the Carol Service on 19 December, where the church looked, as usual, stunningly candlelit and atmospheric for over 70 in the congregation. Special thanks to Carol and Richard Blackmore and Mary Pisani and Olga, who decorated the church for this event, and to Mervyn Davis who came across from Sherborne to play the organ for us.

The Joint Benefice Service on the last Sunday - and last day - of the year was again a full church, with the collection being shared £115 each between the Somerset Churches Trust, who so generously supported our roof repairs in 2010, and St Margaret's Hospice – our own local charity. The Benefice Choir supported the singing, and Robin Carpenter played the organ and led the choir for their anthem – thank you to them and to all from the other churches who attended.

We have recently repaired the heating system – the storage heaters are now working well with the under-pew heaters, and the timed magnetic locking system is fully functional again. We have moved the electrical work forward so that the winter services take place in a welcoming, warmer church. There is also some new, discreet lighting to help on dark mornings.

Kenwyn Brown, a regular at All Saints, has kindly agreed to take over as First Church Warden to help with the running of the church.

We have done very little fundraising recently, there being so few of us, but we would be very grateful for any support or ideas. We are, like most churches, struggling to make ends meet, and our small reserves will not last for very long.

We now have use of a portable Benefice Organ, but no one to play it for our 3rd Sunday services, so if anyone knows of anyone who might be able to help.....?

Likewise, we still have no Treasurer. It is not an onerous job, but if anyone has the time and some accountancy knowledge, we would appreciate their involvement!

Outside, we are very grateful to Charlotte Clare who strims the churchyard each month during the summer. Her knowledge of wild flowers and plants has ensured we are not 'over-manicured' and that we maintain the semi-wild state that is ideal for Sutton Bingham, and keeps it as a haven for birdlife.

Don't forget to visit the church in February when the snowdrops will once again be flowering!

Services will continue as normal as far as possible – they are held on:

1st Sunday of each month 9.15am – Prayer Book Said Communion

3rd Sunday of each month 11.00am – Prayer Book Communion with Hymns.

Contacts Kenwyn Brown, Boleshay – 01935 863412
 Heather Snook, Darvole Farm – 01935 474138 Mobile 07971550915

PLANT & CAKE SALE

A "Plant and Cake Sale" morning is planned for the end of May at Walnut Cottage, East Coker. Raffle and cake stall proceeds will go to St. Margaret's Hospice. I hope there may also be a Fair Trade stall and a hospice stall. Raffle prizes, cakes, jams, etc, would be gratefully received nearer the time. Date and final details will be in the next newsletter.

Contact: Kate Best, 07796 991592

THE TRIANGLE

After the three hebes which had grown too large for the plot were removed, daffodil bulbs were put in, again obtained directly from Fentongollan Farm. The farm covers 2,000 acres of prime agricultural land (170 down to daffodils) in the south west of Cornwall on and around the beautiful Tregothnan Estate and the Roseland Peninsula, where the Hoskin family has farmed as tenants of Lord Falmouth for 125 years.

The two varieties planted this year are: Fowey, a new Cornish introduction and Pipit, a miniature narcissus, lightly scented. Both should flower in April. Last year the daffodils were dug up after flowering with a view to drying the bulbs for replanting in the autumn but this proved unsuccessful.

Three modern shrub roses (Bonica) were planted in early December. This is a variety recommended for poor soil conditions, so should do well here.

My thanks to Karen, our Ranger, for her willing help when called upon.

Kathryn Sturtridge

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Classes held at East Coker Village hall every Wednesday and Thursday Morning 10.00 –11.00am. As well as other classes in the Yeovil area. Contact us to claim your "first class free"

EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor James (Jimmy) New. It is with great sadness that we report the death of one of our Parish Councillors, Jimmy New.

Jimmy was a great character, and had been an active and inspirational member of the Council for 8 years, in particular dealing with planning and footpaths, where his input was invaluable. He also represented the Council on the East Coker Hall Committee.

He only recently married his partner of many years, Helen, and several Councillors attended a super party after the wedding, held in East Coker Hall. We all had a great time and Jimmy was in his element, and so happy. Tobias, Jimmy and Helen's young son, is a joy and Helen tells us that she and Tobias will carry on their lives in the way that Jimmy would have wanted them to, and all the plans they had made before his untimely death in October. He had a loving, strong family who are around to support, and many friends as well. He will be greatly missed by the Parish Council.

The Chapel A working group has been created by the Parish Council, which invites members of the Parish to join. The group will be working on having the Chapel repaired and its future use. If you are interested in joining, please contact the Clerk.

Neighbourhood Plan As you know, our Neighbourhood Plan went for its independent Health Check in October 2017. The Health Check Examiner seemed quite impressed with it on the whole, with the exception of a few minor amendments, which we have now made.

He asked that the Neighbourhood Plan section of the Parish Council website be made more user-friendly which we have also completed, and you will find all the relevant information and documents together with the final draft of the plan on www.eastcokerparish.com. Just search for Neighbourhood Plan and it should all be there.

We have now forwarded all the documents to South Somerset District Council for them to arrange another 6-week consultation exercise known as Regulation 16 consultation, which will be handled by the SSDC. This will be advertised by them, but we will be pressing for this to be progressed as soon as possible in January.

Following this, SSDC will arrange for the Plan to be formally examined by an independent examiner, who will consider all the comments made on the Plan and may well recommend modifications. After this, the Plan can progress to the Referendum and hopefully, final approval.

Pavilion Recreation Grounds After improvements to the playing fields and the installation of semi-permanent goals, it is hoped that all age groups for East Coker Cockerels Football Club will now be accommodated at the Pavilion. The Parish Council are also looking into refurbishing and improving the Pavilion, more details to follow. The fencing around the children's play area is being repaired, and these works should be completed soon.

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

Christmas Eve Carols was a huge success. It was a crisp evening, very well attended. The Parish Council thank all of those attending and donating to the Royal British Legion in memory of Councillor Jimmy New, which raised £415.92p. The Parish Council would also like to thank Steve and Keita - Village Café, Julia and Mike Zaple and Sam Thornton-Barnes – instrument playing, Joe and Tanya Coles, for use of the horsebox, Phil and Di Miskin for the beautiful Christmas Tree, Rod and Annette Beardsley for supplying the electric, David and Michael Mead, Simon Dicker, Chantelle Henocq and Matthew and Paula Hodge for the installation of the tree, Cris Macpherson of CCM Electrics Ltd for electrical works provided, and Mortimers for providing the mince pies at a discounted rate. The next Parish Council Event will be the Annual Parishioner meeting in May, details to follow.

East Coker Photography Competition We are pleased to announce the 12 finalists and winning entries for the 2018 East Coker Parish Calendar. The winning shots were taken by Annette Beardsley with Goosey Goosey and junior winner, Poppy Martinez with Butterfly. This year's East Coker Parish Photographic Competition has been a huge success and we would like to say a big thank you to everyone that took part and the judges, Pauline Burr, SSDC, John Snelling, Studio Elite Photography and Councillor Chantelle Henocq. The finalists are, in no particular order, Rachel Kilbee – A Pause at the Park, Sandi Wintersgill – Nature's Gift, Peter Cameron – Misty Sunrise, Pauline Dagnall – Paul and Scruff, Nigel Lindsay – Grass Collection at Coker Marsh, David Pryor – Harvest Time, Angie Mead – Bob Mead and his Deerstalker, Charlie Baigent – Aerial Shot, Alex Bickerton – Cabin, Alan Owen – A Winter's Day in East Coker.

Pot-Holes Please report any pot-holes to the Clerk.

Grant Aids are available from the East Coker Parish Council for the benefit of East Coker Groups and Societies. If you have a parish group which would benefit, please contact the Clerk for further details or download the application form from our website.

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

Councillor Vacancy We have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you are interested, please contact the clerk for information. The deadline date for applications will be the 30 January, 2018.

The Parish Council hold a **monthly meeting**, every 2nd 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.

Councillors' contact details are on our website, www.eastcokerparish.com

The Parish Clerk, Gillian Macpherson, can be reached on 01935 864354 (Tuesday and Thursday's 10.00am – 3.00pm) - email clerk@eastcokerparish.com



EAST COKER CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Despite the gloom outside on the day of the Christmas Lunch, the jollity within the cheery Village Hall was heart-warming. Yet again East Coker excelled at putting on a magnificent spread.

With the expertise and fantastic help from Kieta and Steve from the Village Café, the atmosphere in the kitchen was so relaxed with happy banter! They made everything look so straightforward and easy (obviously with much preparation and work beforehand). Sam and his team of waiters were so professional in their approach and delivered delicious meals that any hotel would be proud to serve.

Thanks go to you all, whether as guests or helpers, making for a remarkable occasion in the run up to Christmas. A cheque for £1,500 will be presented to St Margaret's Hospice. What a result!

The East Coker Hall is booked for Christmas Lunch on Sunday 9 December 2018, so why not make that the first entry in your new calendar!

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year!

Di Miskin

The East Coker Society would like to thank Di for co-ordinating this wonderful, community event. We appreciate the massive amount of effort that she put into managing the team, to provide Christmas Lunch for 200 people. Hip Hip Hoorah for Di! Sarah Owen, Secretary

BONFIRES

It will soon be spring, and gardeners will be cutting and clipping their shrubs and hedges, so please think to plan really well before having a bonfire. Please inform neighbours and check that hedgehogs have not taken up residence. Think of the direction of the wind, and don't allow damp material to smoulder. Late in the afternoon allows people to enjoy sitting in the sun, washing to be dried, and gardening to be done without having to retreat indoors from bonfire smoke and falling ash. Please be neighbourhood-friendly.

REFUSE COLLECTIONS – Easter 2018

The Wednesday 4 April recycling collection will be one day later on Thursday 5 April.

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.

9 January 6 February 6 March 3 April

BRITISH SUMMER TIME

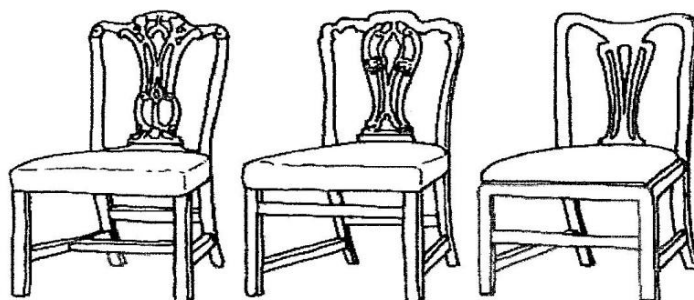
BST starts on Sunday 25 March 2018.

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **January 2018**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or email l.lindsay@eastcoker.com, by **Wednesday, 21 March 2018 or before if possible**.

KEN MARSH

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QUARTERLY VILLAGE DIARY

January 2018 – April 2018

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Tues 9 Jan | Library | 12.40pm-12.55pm | The Helyar Arms |
| Thurs 11 Jan | Gardening Club – Twelve Months of Colour | 7.30pm | East Coker Hall |
| Mon 15 Jan | Time To Share – Take Note - Singing | 2.30pm | East Coker Hall |
| Thurs 18 Jan | W.I. – Whist Drive | 7.30pm | East Coker Hall |
| Thurs 25 Jan | W.I. – Fairground History | 7.30pm | East Coker Hall |
| Fri 26 Jan | Coffee Morning – Help for Heroes | 10.00am-12.00pm | The Forester's |
| Sat 27 Jan | Scouts – Waste Paper Collection | 8.30am-10.30am | Near the school |
| Mon 29 Jan | Time To Share – Just Games | 2.30pm | East Coker Hall |
| Tues 30 Jan | Poetry Group – Winter Open Evening | 7.30pm | The Helyar Arms |
| Wed 31 Jan | FlimFlix – The Levelling | 7.00pm-7.30pm | East Coker Hall |
| Mon 5 Feb | W.I. – Fun & Games | 2.00pm | East Coker Hall |
| Tues 6 Feb | Library | 12.40pm-12.55pm | The Helyar Arms |
| Wed 7 Feb | Wine Circle – Tasting by Piddle Beer | 8.00pm | East Coker Hall |
| Thurs 8 Feb | Gardening Club – Companion Planting | 7.30pm | East Coker Hall |
| Mon 12 Feb | Time To Share – Line Dancing | 2.30pm | East Coker Hall |
| Thurs 15 Feb | W.I. – Whist Drive | 7.30pm | East Coker Hall |
| Thurs 22 Feb | W.I. – The Phelips of Montacute | 7.30pm | East Coker Hall |
| Fri 23 Feb | Coffee Morning – RNLI | 10.00am-12.00pm | East Coker Hall |
| Sat 24 Feb | Scouts – Waste Paper Collection | 8.30am-10.30am | Near the school |
| Mon 26 Feb | Time To Share – Old Yeovil | 2.30pm | East Coker Hall |
| Tues 27 Feb | Poetry Group – Walking Wounded | 7.30pm | The Helyar Arms |
| Wed 28 Feb | FlimFlix – My Cousin Rachel | 7.00pm-7.30pm | East Coker Hall |
| Mon 5 Mar | W.I. – Fun & Games | 2.00pm | East Coker Hall |
| Tues 6 Mar | Library | 12.40pm-12.55pm | The Helyar Arms |
| Wed 7 Mar | Wine Circle – In-house Activity | 8.00pm | East Coker Hall |
| Thurs 8 Mar | Gardening Club – 'Lift the Latch' | 7.30pm | East Coker Hall |
| Sat 10 Mar | W.I. – Jumble Sale | 2.00pm | East Coker Hall |
| Sat 10 Mar | 13 th East Coker Quiz | 7.00pm-7.30pm | East Coker Hall |
| Mon 12 Mar | Time To Share – Bottle Tops | 2.30pm | East Coker Hall |
| Thurs 15 Mar | W.I. – Whist Drive | 7.30pm | East Coker Hall |
| Wed 21 Mar | Copy for April Newsletter | | |
| Fri 23 Mar | Coffee Morning – Apollo Swimming Club | 10.00am-12.00pm | The Forester's |
| Sat 24 Mar | The Scouts – Jumble Sale | 2.00pm | East Coker Hall |
| Sat 24 Mar | Wine Circle – 40 th Anniversary Dinner | TBC | TBC |
| Mon 26 Mar | Time To Share – W.I. Games & Easter Bonnets | 2.30pm | East Coker Hall |
| Wed 28 Mar | FilmFlix – Victoria & Abdul | 7.00pm -7.30pm | East Coker Hall |
| Thurs 29 Mar | W.I. – Annual Meeting | 7.30pm | East Coker Hall |
| Sat 31 Mar | Scouts – Waste Paper Collection | 8.30am-10.30am | Near the school |
| Mon 2 Apr | Time To Share - Easter | | |
| Tues 3 Apr | Library | 12.40pm-12.55pm | The Helyar Arms |
| Wed 4 Apr | Wine Circle – Music & Flower quiz | 8.00pm | East Coker Hall |