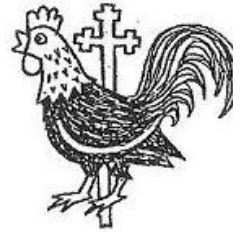


# East Coker Society Newsletter



January 2019

Free Issue No 173

Chair: John Sugg:	863435	
Secretary: Sarah Owen:	862218	
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## East Coker Society News

### HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

Thank you to everyone who supported East Coker Society's Winter Fayre on 27 October 2018, which raised £610. Many of our stallholders raise funds for charities such as the RNLI, Children in Need, St Margaret's Hospice, Fairtrade as well as local organisations such as the WI and the Scouts. We hope to let you know details of the 2019 Fayre in our April edition.

For those of you who still receive a delivered, paper copy of our Newsletter, we would like you to consider receiving yours by email! We are currently producing 500 paper copies every quarter. This amounts to around 5,000 sheets of paper. Janet spends hours at the photocopier – printing and collating. Martin delivers the finished items to our team of distributors, who bring it to your door. You could help us to save considerable cost and effort by receiving yours electronically. It is a simple matter of contacting our Editor, Lesley Lindsay at [l.lindsay@eastcoker.com](mailto:l.lindsay@eastcoker.com) providing your full name and postal address. Your privacy will be maintained as we do not disclose details to anyone else. Thank you for your support.

Sarah Owen (Secretary)

## Village Clubs and Organisations

### EAST COKER HALL CHARITABLE TRUST

East Coker is very fortunate in having a well-run and well-used community facility, particularly with such good parking. Great effort and time is put in by a few people in ensuring that the Hall is maintained and cleaned; the booking system kept up to date by our very efficient and helpful booking clerk; the myriad of legislative requirements met and kept up to date; finances kept in order – the list is endless!

Several local clubs and groups use the Hall for their meetings and events. If you don't already belong to one – or any – of them, do think about it. You will meet friendly people, keep fit, learn something new (or brush up on something old), relax, enjoy, laugh, get tired, play, sit, chat, drink, eat, sew, see a film, shout *it's behind you!* or *oh no it isn't* or *oh yes it is!* at 'the Dame' in the pantomime each year, search the depths of your brains at the annual quiz night, marvel at the exhibits at the Annual Flower and Produce Show, scrabble at the jumble sales.

Such a lot happens at the Hall in Halves Lane. Support it by supporting those groups who use it, and make the most of living in the community of East Coker.

We hope you had a chance to enjoy the decorations which the 'decorating team' put up for the Christmas period, and would like to thank them for their time, inventiveness, good humour and hard work in making the Hall look so festive. Thanks should also go to the Little Wheelers, who made the decorations for the tree.

Details about the Hall and booking arrangements are available on the website <http://eastcokervillagehall.co.uk>

Helen

## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH

The Branch 2018 Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning was held at West Coker Commemoration Hall on Saturday 7 October. A very successful event, over £600 was raised – a great start to the 2018 Appeal. To date, the East Coker District Poppy Appeal total is £9,646.27, a record!!

East Coker's total amounted to £3,986.97 an increase of £470.87 from 2017. House-House (H-H) collections were £1,826.21. The remainder coming from static boxes placed at various locations around the village and the church collection at St Michael's on Remembrance Sunday. A special thank-you to all children, parents, teachers, and staff at East Coker School, who between them raised the wonderful sum of £369.07. Thanks also to our dedicated collectors and those who gave so generously.

You will remember in my report this time last year, I asked if any of you would help us with our H-H collections. A lot of collectors have been with us for a number of years and age is not on their side. To date nobody has come forward, not only in East Coker or any of the other four villages in the East Coker District. Therefore, 2018 will be the final year of H-H collections. Static boxes will still be placed in shops, pubs etc. I am also looking for somebody to take over my role as Poppy Appeal Organiser (PAO). I have been the district PAO for eight years, and like others age is not on my side. Are you that person? Please give me a ring or email if you are interested.

Before closing on the behalf of the Branch, I would like to thank all those who helped with the placing of poppies around the village, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of WW.1, and those who helped decorate the church for Remembrance Sunday. Thanks also to East Coker Parish Council and the Village Café for their support. We've had some lovely comments from visitors and villagers.

Without your continued support and generosity, the RBL would not be able to continue to provide its assistance, support and advice to our Service families, dependants and veterans now and into the future. From the Service community – **Thank You**

We wish you all Good Health & Happiness for 2019.

**Notes for diaries:** Our Annual Cheese & Wine Evening is on Friday 3 May at East Coker Hall at 7.30pm.

David Holland, Chairman & PAO. Email [d.holland632@btinternet.com](mailto:d.holland632@btinternet.com)  
Secretary: Marilyn Smith Tel: 863944.

## 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](http://www.eastcokershortmatbowlsclub.btck.co.uk) or telephone our Club Captain, George Dudden on 01935 864222.

D Farrant, Club Chairman

## EAST COKER 400 CLUB - Autumn and Winter draws.

### Autumn

£100 Sandra Snelling; £50 Mrs Lynn Bromley; £40 Mrs P Smith; £30 John Burgess; £20 Russell Chatwin; £15 Mike and Wendy Weston; £10 Mrs S Branson.

### Winter

£100 Mr and Mrs T Ashley; £50 Sarah Owen; £40 Mrs K Sturtridge; £30 Mr and Mrs P Eastment  
£20 Mrs J Fellows; £15 Mrs G Bryan; £10 Ms C Leng.

Mike Weston 862472

## TIME TO SHARE

All events are at East Coker Hall unless otherwise specified. All are welcome, 2.30pm every other Monday.

### Programme for 2019

#### January

Monday 21 Take Note Singing Choir

#### February

Monday 4 Mini Desert Island Discs

Monday 18 Wiltshire Farm Foods Tasting

#### March

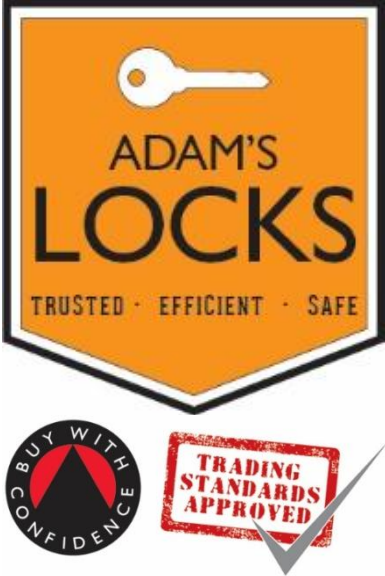
Monday 4 What's in the Bag? (Fun)

Monday 18 My Life at Sea – (Jan McNeill)

#### April

Monday 1 Funny Stories

Best wishes, Sandra Snelling 862162



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## EAST COKER PLAYERS

Happy New Year to you all! We hope you enjoyed our Wild West themed pantomime - Calamity Dame. We all had a great time and received some lovely comments. We would like to thank everyone for the tremendous support we received over the weekend especially from those who work behind the scenes. At our Annual General Meeting in January, we will be discussing how we will use the money raised from the pantomime and which local charity will benefit.

On the Monday 4 February meeting at 7.00pm, we will be finding out about the plans of our new Pantomime director, followed by a sing-along to the recording of the last pantomime. We would welcome anyone interested in joining us for our next production. Minimum age 8 years.

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

## EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

We have had a great year in 2018 and we have a packed programme for 2019:

<b>Saturday 19 January</b>	World War 1 - theme party with food
<b>Wednesday 6 February</b>	Pancakes with Liberty Field – tasting
<b>Wednesday 6 March</b>	Bonny Sartin – Folk Songs of Dorset

Meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month at 8.00pm at East Coker Hall. Everyone welcome.

Sarah Rashley

## EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

Gardening Club members had a very agreeable evening at Brimsmore in October, with a talk on various plants and the opportunity to benefit from a substantial discount on purchases made. This was followed in November by the AGM at the Red House, where an excellent two course carvery meal was enjoyed by all attendees. The evening in December gave members the chance to partake of festive fare, rack their brains about what flowers went with which (old) songs, and sing carols - we hope those of you who came enjoyed the music, quiz and singing. Thank you to JJR, who gave us an entertaining evening.

Meetings recommence on 10 January with a talk entitled ***From Seed to Fork***, given by Greg Morter.

### Programme details:

<b>14 February</b>	Composting Tips	Stephanie Hafferty
<b>14 March</b>	Plant Hunters	Christine Stones
<b>11 April</b>	Hanging Baskets	Demonstration and Tips, Caroline Bottomley/Chris Francis

### Trips are planned for:

**Wednesday 15 May** – Killerton House, Devon

**Thursday 20 June** – Kingston Lacy, Dorset

The 2019 annual holiday, based near Newbury, will take place from Tuesday 23 – Thursday 25 April 2019.

Work has already begun on the 2020 programme, as good speakers are often booked up a year or two in advance. The small committee do 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 at East Coker Hall.

For further information, please contact Helen Styles 01935 862447 or Stan Shayler 01935 420291.

## EAST COKER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We hope you all had a very pleasant Christmas, and we wish everyone a safe and healthy New Year.

We meet on the last Thursday of the month at East Coker Hall. We aim to provide members with a good social evening with a variety of speakers to inform and amuse. We start in January with the ever popular Bonny Sartin of 'The Yetties' talking about 'From Corscombe to New Zealand', and in February Margaret O'Neill continues with her 'Travel Tales'. We hold our annual meeting in March, and we have arranged a talk on 'Hanging Baskets' in April by a representative from Palmers Garden Centre. The rest of the year will be arranged after a programme meeting to be held later this month.

For those who enjoy some gentle exercise with a lot of laughter, then join us once a month on Monday at 2.00pm at the East Coker Hall for 'Fun and Games'. The games include indoor curling, archery, walking rounders, table tennis and seated volley ball. See our diary dates below for further information.

Also, for anyone interested in playing whist, we hold monthly sessions, open to all, on the third Thursday of the month in the East Coker Hall (see our diary dates). As this has proved popular, we are starting at 7.00pm rather than 7.30pm so that we can finish in good time. There are always good prizes to be won.

Our Jumble Sale will be held on Saturday 23 March starting at 2.00pm at the East Coker Hall. Be aware, there is usually a queue waiting before we open to snatch up the bargains.

For any further information please contact our secretary, Ruby on tel 475010.

#### Diary dates

<b>Monday 14 January</b>	Fun and Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
<b>Thursday 17 January</b>	Whist drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
<b>Thursday 31 January</b>	'From Corscombe to New Zealand'	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
<b>Monday 11 February</b>	Fun and Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
<b>Thursday 21 February</b>	Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
<b>Thursday 28 February</b>	'Further Travel Tales'	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
<b>Monday 11 March</b>	Fun and Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
<b>Thursday 21 March</b>	Whist drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
<b>Saturday 23 March</b>	Jumble Sale	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
<b>Thursday 28 March</b>	Annual Meeting	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
<b>Monday 8 April</b>	Fun and Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall

#### FILMFLIXS – Films at East Coker Hall



The film nights, held on the last Wednesday of each month, continue to attract an audience sufficient to cover the cost of screening the films.

Films scheduled for the next three months are:

**Wednesday 30 January: 'Swimming with Men'.** Eric is an accountant who believes he can win back his wife by diving into the world of male synchronised swimming. Joining his local team 'Men Who Swim', Eric finds a surprising brotherhood in the motley crew as they train for the world championships in Milan. Can their coach Susan whip them into shape? More importantly, can Eric win Heather back with the help of his newfound confidence?

**Wednesday 27 February: 'The Wife'.** Joe Castleman (Pryce) is being given the Nobel Prize for Literature, and he and wife Joan (Close) couldn't be happier. But from the moment the couple arrive in Stockholm, tensions rise. A nosy, insistent would-be biographer (Slater) is loitering in the hotel lobby, an attractive young photographer opens old wounds regarding past indiscretions, and Joe and Joan's son David (Max Irons), eternally irked at living in his father's shadow, sulks through the celebrations. What's more, with all the attention being paid to Joe's long career, the normally shy Joan is pushed uncomfortably into the spotlight, where long-kept secrets are in danger of being illuminated. An incisive study of celebrity, marriage, and the creative process, this is also as a showcase for acting of Close and Pryce.

**Wednesday 27 March: King of Thieves.** A true crime film about a crew of retired crooks who pull off a major heist in London's jewellery district. What starts off as their last criminal hurrah quickly turns into a brutal nightmare due to greed. Based on infamous true events!  
Stars: Michael Caine, Michael Gambon, Charlie Cox

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

For further details contact 01935 863002 or 01935 862447.

Helen



#### BURTON BOOK CLUB

The book club meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm at Goose Slade Farm. We are a small friendly group. We read a wide variety of books accessed from the library.

If interested, contact Penny Marpole 01935 863055



## EAST COKER MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

We continue to hold our Charity Coffee Mornings, and are grateful to the Forester's for their continued support. Also a big thank-you to all our 'regulars' who support us whatever the charity! Due to the generosity of everyone who came to the events in 2018, the total raised from the nine events during the year amounted to £2,594 (compared to £3,316 in 2017).

Successful events were held in September for Polio Eradication (£260) and October for Children in Need (£285). There were no Coffee Mornings in November and December.

Forthcoming events will be

- **Friday 25 January** - Help for Heroes
- **Friday 22 February** - Lifeboats
- **Friday 29 March** - Cystic Fibrosis

There is currently a vacancy for the event on 26 April, so if anyone would like to hold a coffee morning for a charity on that day, please let us know.

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313      Penny Marpole 863055

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## EAST COKER ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCH

A huge 'thank you' to Di, Mary and the team of helpers, as well as to Keita and Steve, for an extremely good and thoroughly enjoyable Christmas lunch. We look forward to the next one!


Helen

## EAST COKER CHRISTMAS LUNCH

This lunch has been held in the East Coker Hall since the opening of the Hall in 1981. Originally run by the Keep Fit Group to raise money for the Hall and in later years for various charities, six years ago the Keep Fit decided not to continue with the lunch, but luckily Di Miskin and her helpers stepped in. This year, once again due to the generosity of the helpers, those who cooked potatoes and turkey and donated a lovely selection of excellent sweets, we raised £1,606. This will be donated to the Yeovil Hospice and the Air Ambulance.


This is now an established village event and was supported by 192 diners. Could you organise it, with help, in 2019? If so, please speak to Di Miskin.

Mary

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## EAST COKER FLOWER SHOW

It's time again to think about preparing for the local flower show. Here are the new classes:

### Floral Art

Class 43 - Arrangement in a Gift Box or Bag; Class 44 - Green with Envy – Exhibit in shades of green; Class 45 - 5 Flowers - foliage allowed; Class 46 - Floral Arrangement – made by a young person up to the age of 16 years old; Class 47 - Novice.

### Homecraft

Class 49 - Coffee Cake with butter icing in the centre and a plain top; Class 51 - 5 Jam Tarts; Class 54 - Fruit tart on a plate.

### Art and Crafts

Class 62 - Painting – any medium (to be hung).

### Photography

Class 70 - Any photograph taken by a young person up to 16 years old (Olive Sharman award); Class 71 - Single Flower; Class 72 – Heights; Class 73 – Friendship; Class 74 - Power of Nature; Class 75 - A Black and White Photo; Class 76 - Group of four photographs – letterboxes.

Good Luck to everyone who is thinking of entering.

Sarah Rashley



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## THE EAST COKER BULK OIL PURCHASE SCHEME – January 2019

It's been pretty mild so far, but anyone for a Top-up? Time was when oil was cheaper in the summer than the winter and top-up was what we did if we needed to. Seems that no longer applies. The asking price today (New Year's Day) is slightly less than we actually paid last July. Last year's was the biggest January order by far at 46,700 litres (thanks to the Beast from the East?) and last July's was a record at 68,020 litres.

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](mailto: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 7.00pm on Wednesday 23 January. Please do not ring and ask what the price will be; I will not know it until I have collated the requirements and rung the suppliers.

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

Paul Edwards



## EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

### Forthcoming meetings:

**Tuesday 29 January, 7.30pm**  
**Tuesday 26 February, 7.30pm**  
**Tuesday 26 March, 7.30pm**  
**Tuesday 30 April, 7.30pm**

Guest Poets from Bristol, Elizabeth Parker and Luke Palmer  
R S Thomas - a talk by John Summers  
Open Evening. Bring some poems to read  
Leonard Cohen evening presented by Heather Murphy

Our meetings are held at the Helyar Arms, 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](mailto:info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk). Please check our website for the most up to date details of any meeting [www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk](http://www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk).

David Cloke

## Young People

### EAST COKER PLAYGROUP

Find us on [www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk](http://www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk)



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 £700 was raised to support the Preschool.

The Preschool was extremely busy in the last few weeks before the Christmas holiday. The children made and decorated a Christmas cake and a Christmas card for their family. 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 hours 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, [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://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 (8am-4pm).

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. East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup is a smaller group, and this can be a great benefit to the younger children.

### Toddler Session

East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup also runs an integrated Toddler Session on Thursday mornings from 9.30am to 1.00pm for £2 per family.

See our Facebook page - East Chinnock Playgroup –for details of forthcoming Toddler session events and the Playgroup.

For more information, and to put your child/children on the waiting list for either East Coker Playgroup or East Chinnock Under Fives, please contact Kay Strode on 07503 751133 or email [ecplaygroup@aol.com](mailto:ecplaygroup@aol.com)

## EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

2019 starts with great expectations and so much to look forward to.

Last term, Matt and Katie began running Cubs, with help from Andrew. The ideas and activities they have prepared have been superb. The Cubs have had a brilliant time making a 'car' to carry an egg, before testing it for both distance and crash ability as well as making an exploding stomach! This new leader team continues to be supported by Sam and Alex whilst they prepare for their next exams. The Cubs are in excellent hands and I'm sure will have an amazing programme this year.



Our four explorer scouts (Bethan, Clare, Toby and Ruby) are off to the World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia, USA in July. Their itinerary is beginning to become clear: they will leave the UK on Saturday 20 July and fly to New York. After 24 hours and a chance to see the city, they will board buses to travel to the Jamboree. Twelve days in camp with 45,000 scouts will be followed by a city break in Washington and then home hospitality as a group in Canada.

This incredible experience is preceded by training camps and activities as well as raising the funds to pay for the trip. Their latest activity was a scavenger hunt around Bath getting to be comfortable travelling on their own around a 'city'. The contingent will now begin preparing menus for the camp, practising activities for when they will host other nationalities in camp and complete all the necessary paperwork. Fundraising is a key element of the Jamboree learning experience; it develops the scouts' self-confidence and ability to mix and talk with all types of people (crucial for the Jamboree). I believe Bethan, Clare, Toby and Ruby all demonstrated their suitability for a Jamboree during the Bonus Village Quiz held in November. Massive thanks to everyone who came along and supported this quiz. We have had many positive comments since the event about the quiz, the food and most importantly about our four scouts. The quiz raised over £1,000, and with a couple of small events remaining we will beat the target. Bethan, Clare, Toby, Ruby and their families really appreciate the support received from across the village – it has been amazing – Thank You.

Bethan, Clare and Ruby continue to support our Beavers. Last term, they all decorated and filled flower pots before making Christmas decorations, and for their Christmas party they went climbing at Ready-2-Climb. This term, they will be working on their Global Issues activity badge looking at water filters, recycling and fair trade.

The Scouts participated in UK Parliament Week in November. This involved a Parliament quiz, reviewing key 2018 anniversaries and voting with a £1m to spend as a patrol and then a secret ballot on 17 global sustainable development issues. This clearly illustrated to them the difference between a group decision and a personal (secret) ballot. We entered a patrol in the County Challenge, an evening event covering 11 bases, and came 3<sup>rd</sup> – a fantastic team effort. Congratulations also to Matthew who has completed his Gold Chief Scout's Award.

We continue with our fund-raising for the Group (jumble sale and newspaper collections – see below for dates) which is spent on equipment and maintenance of the scout hut. We have plenty to do. We again successfully entered the Aviva Community Fund (thank you to everyone who voted online for us); once the due diligence is completed, we are aiming to purchase extra camping equipment for section camps, for example a gas water urn and multiple ring gas cooker.

**Spring Jumble Sale: Saturday 6 April 2.00 pm at East Coker Hall.**

Ideally, please bring your items for the jumble sale to the Hall after 9.00am on the day of the sale. If this is not possible, please contact Max Bugler 862186 if you wish anything collected in the week before the jumble sale.

**Newspaper Collections: 9.00 am to 10.30 am**

**Saturday 26 January   Saturday 23 February   Saturday 30 March   Saturday 27 April**

The collection point is outside the school, opposite the Village Café on the last Saturday of each month. If possible, please flat-pack your newspapers and tie into bundles.

David Webber, Group Scout Leader [eastcokerscouts@gmail.com](mailto:eastcokerscouts@gmail.com)

## The Churches

### EAST COKER CHAPEL, BURTON LANE, BA22 9LJ – WE HAVE MOVED!!!

We now meet every week at the East Coker Hall on Sunday Mornings at 11.00am for a time of worship led by our worship band; an inspirational and challenging short message, prayer and plenty of tea, coffee and biscuits. (Just check our website, as there are a few Sundays not available to us in the morning.)

**Kids Church** takes place during the second half of the service; we are splitting into more groups with growing numbers. They play, learn bible stories and often do craft activities.

We are a growing community of people from all walks of life who gather together regularly to worship God, learn how to better follow Him and to encourage each other in our lives as Christians. If you are looking for answers to some of life's big questions, why not come along to one of our services or events and find out more.

**Cafe Church** is church with breakfast! This is held on the first Sunday of the month at East Coker Hall at 11.00am. A very relaxed and informal introduction to Church, sitting at tables, eating, chatting and drinking coffee. As always, all age groups welcome and catered for.

**Little Wheelers** is our baby and toddler group held at the East Coker Hall during term time from 10.30am - 12.00pm. We welcome parents, grandparents and carers. Children can play in a safe environment; craft activities and/or singing sessions are provided in the Dampier room. Parents/Guardians remain responsible for their children throughout the session. Refreshments available.

For any further details of events or general enquiries, please email [ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk) or take a look at our website [www.eastcokerchapel.com](http://www.eastcokerchapel.com). You can also follow us on Facebook.

Phil & Liz Dunning 07949 840442. Joe & Charlotte Dunning 07800 746754.

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☎ 01935 414 015\*

✉ [recruitment@yeovilsamaritans.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@yeovilsamaritans.org.uk)

🌐 [samaritans.org/yeovil](http://samaritans.org/yeovil)

\*Local call charges apply. Samaritans of Yeovil Sherborne and District is a charity registered in England and Wales (1166371).

## ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

From all at St Michael's – we hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and wish you a happy and peaceful 2019.

Unfortunately, St Michael's is still searching for a Churchwarden. If you happen to know anyone who may be interested, please get in touch with either The Rev Colin Simpson on [rector42@icloud.com](mailto:rector42@icloud.com) and tel 862429 or the Benefice Administrator Barbs on [barbsmack@me.com](mailto:barbsmack@me.com)

You may have seen the new Church Notice board in the Paddock, our thanks to the Parish Council for allowing us to put it there. Please keep an eye on it for services and events taking place.

We are pleased to announce we have a new Benefice Children and Families Work Leader, Deborah Wootton. Keep a look out for notices around the village, particularly on the new notice board. There was a very successful Christmas Messy Church in December when the children happily made their own Christingles.

**Important date for your diary – Messy Easter** –Saturday 13 April at East Coker Hall – 4.00pm

If you would like to receive regular Church News, then pick up a weekly Pew sheet from the back of the Church. If you would like regular updates, then let us know your email address. Send it to [judith.foxholes@gmail.com](mailto:judith.foxholes@gmail.com) or [barbsmack@me.com](mailto:barbsmack@me.com)

Just a reminder for you of the Service rota for St Michael's:

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	11am - Sung Eucharist
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	8am – Holy Communion
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	10am – Café Church (not January) 6pm – Evensong
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	11am - Sung Eucharist
Every Thursday	10am – Holy Communion

The Shoebox appeal before Christmas saw us sending off around 90 boxes, destined for children around the world who would otherwise receive nothing. Many thanks to all those who supported this appeal.

**Date for your diary: - 31 March 2019** 10.00am Benefice Mothering Sunday Service at St Michael's.

Contact details: Rev. Colin Simpson [rector42@icloud.com](mailto:rector42@icloud.com) and tel 862429

## Village News

### PLANT & CAKE SALE – Walnut Cottage, Coker Marsh

A second Plant and Cake Sale is planned for the morning of Saturday 25 May 2019 (Bank Holiday weekend) at Walnut Cottage, East Coker. Money raised from refreshments, raffle etc, will be for St. Margaret's Hospice. Raffle prizes, cakes, jams, etc, would be gratefully received nearer the time.

Final details will be in the April Newsletter. Contact Kate Best 07796 991592

### THE TRIANGLE

Last autumn, in order to replenish the growing medium, 8 bags of Levington's organic blend top soil were spread before Trelawney Gold daffodils and Prinses Irene tulips were planted to flower this spring. As usual, the bulbs came from Fentongollan, a 2,500 acre tenant farm on Lord Falmouth's Tregothnan estate.

In addition to growing 400 varieties of daffodil, the farm runs 1000 ewes producing top-quality lamb for Waitrose and plants 1,000 acres of cereals including specialist malting barleys. Lord Falmouth's family have lived at Tregothnan on the river Fal, a working private estate, since 1334. It has recently won a European Land Owners Award for sustainable farming. In 2005, it began supplying Britain's first home-grown tea made from the leaves of its *Camellia sinensis* bushes.

Kathryn Sturtridge



## AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE

There hasn't been a lot happening in the village, however in the aftermath of Christmas can you remind everyone to be extra vigilant and report any suspicious activity to us via 101 or 999 if necessary.

With most people having Christmas presents and additional items in their homes, we are giving some simple advice regarding opportunist thieves:

- Keys should be kept out of sight particularly away from letter boxes and open windows to prevent fishing attacks (that is, opportunists fishing the keys out of the letter box).
- Spare keys that aren't in regular use should be locked away in a safe.
- Keys that are used daily should still be kept out of sight but be accessible to all occupants in case of a fire (fire safety regulations should take priority over crime prevention advice).
- Never leave keys hidden outside the property, even if it is thought to be a safe location.
- Keep electronic car keys safe. Use an approved **Faraday** pouch to store keys and prevent them from being remotely scanned and copied.
- Don't leave empty boxes and packaging from expensive items such as TVs and computers outside the house the night before rubbish collection.
- Don't leave valuables in view through windows – where possible fit a safe and keep small items such as jewellery locked away

More advice is available on the Avon and Somerset Police Website or stop us and speak to us when you see us out and about.

Many thanks & best wishes, Fiona.

**Fiona Wilson**

PCSO 8380

Neighbourhood Policing Team | Avon and Somerset Police

Yeovil Police Station, Horsey Lane, YEOVIL, Somerset BA20 1SN

Tel 101 Mobile 07889659261

Email [fiona.wilson@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:fiona.wilson@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

[www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk) Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

## EAST COKER VILLAGE QUIZ

We have decided for a variety of reasons that the time has come for us to stop organising and running the East Coker Village Quiz.

We have given the matter a great deal of thought and it has not been an easy decision, but we are certain that it is the right one.

We have gained much enjoyment and satisfaction from running the events over the past fourteen years, and we are proud that more than £10,000 has been donated to various deserving charities due to the generosity of those who have taken part.

We have had a lot of fun running the events, and it has been very rewarding to see the evident enjoyment the teams have had each time.

We could not have run the events without the help that we have had from a host of people over the years - handing out and collecting the question sheets, distributing the fish and chips, etc. Particular mention must also be made of Penny and Derek Marpole for their help marking the answers and keeping the "scores on the door"! Our sincere thanks go to all these people.

As to this year's quiz, East Coker Hall is currently booked for Saturday 9 March, so if anyone would like to take it over from us there is still time to organise the event.

If you are interested in doing this, please contact us and we will be happy to help you take it on.

Martyn and Cherry Sowerbutts 863313

## EAST COKER WEA

Coker WEA branch is a collaboration of three wards - those from East & West Coker and Hardington.

The programme for the Spring Term will be in Hardington Village Hall and we start the year with a six week course from Monday 28 January at 2.00pm – 3.30pm. Greta de Plage will discuss five authors who wrote 1930's Crime Fiction.

On Saturday 16 March we have a study day, from 10.00am – 1.00pm, about Tudor Portraits and the influence that Henry VIII and Elizabeth I had in creating their own images

On Saturday 13 April we have a study day, from 10.00am – 1.00pm, on the genealogy of Medieval Women in Somerset traced through their land ownership.

For more information on any of these topics, please register via the WEA website <https://enrolonline.wea.org.uk/online/coursesearchresults.aspx> or telephone 0300 303 3464.

Alternatively contact Viv on 863953 or Jayne on 86238.

## ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

Our Diva Lunch which we held back in October was a great success once again, and we made £8,050.00 profit from the event which we are all delighted about. The date for this year's Diva is Friday 18 October.

Our local Cream Teas will this year be done on **Thursday 20 June**, with the National ones the following week being packed on Wednesday 26 June.

We have a new event this year at The Northover Manor at Ilchester on **Thursday 4 April** at 7.00pm. It will be a Fashion Show by Preview of Wincanton, there will also be some stalls and tickets will be £25 each, including a buffet and a glass of fizz.

Further information and tickets are available from me, Jane Donnelly at [janedonnelly81@outlook.com](mailto:janedonnelly81@outlook.com) or 01935 478409.

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## EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

**The Chapel** The works are complete to make it a safe and useable space. It will still be expected that the Chapel will be a place of quiet reflection, but if you have any suggestions on how else it can be used, please contact the Clerk. A working group meeting will be held shortly – date to be confirmed.

**Neighbourhood Plan** Our NP was made by SSDC's District Executive on 6 December 2018. Here is the decision:

**'RESOLVED:** *That the District Executive agreed to the making of the East Coker Neighbourhood Plan.*

*Reason: To note the result of the Referendum in relation to the East Coker Neighbourhood Plan and to confirm that the Plan be 'made' (or adopted).'*

So it is now in full force and effect and is part of the statutory development plan along with the SSDC Local Plan. This means that it has to be taken into account when deciding planning applications within the Parish area.

It has been a long and very difficult process, as you all know, so we are relieved to know we have achieved what seemed to be an impossibility.

We were advised at the meeting that we had the highest turnout at the referendum than for any other Neighbourhood Plan.

We will continue to update and use the Plan in all our Planning decisions in the future.

**Highways - Potholes** Please report any potholes to the Clerk. SSDC gives a 6-8 week lead time for repair. If possible, could you please include a photo of the pothole and its location. Thank you.

**Dog Waste Bins** The waste in these bins goes to Landfill, along with other household rubbish and is not recycled. Please do not put your dog waste from your garden into dog bins. Thank you.

**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.

**Village Traffic – Speed and Signage** This should be installed by April.

**Pavilion Refurbishment** – Plans are in the early stages for the refurbishment of the Pavilion, upgrading the changing rooms, a boot room entrance for the pre-school and an upgrade of the playground. If you would like to be involved with the working group, please contact the Clerk.

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 6pm please).

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 before or at the meeting.

**Email circulation list.** If you would like to be kept up-to-date with Parish Council news, please contact the Clerk. GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) are followed and you can opt-out at any time.

**Councillors' contact details** are on our website [www.eastcokerparish.com](http://www.eastcokerparish.com)

The Parish Clerk can be reached via email [clerk@eastcokerparish.com](mailto:clerk@eastcokerparish.com). Please note that the Clerk works a small amount of hours and will contact you as soon as she is able.

## **STAMPS FOR CLIC SARGENT (Cancer & Leukaemia in Children)**

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

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

## THE VILLAGE CAFÉ

Happy New Year - and what a wonderful year we have had. I would like to thank everyone who supported our raffle and clairvoyant evening which we held in December. We raised a magnificent £532.50 for charity, and our chosen charity is the RNLI. Thank you once again xxx

Christmas Eve Carols in the Court Yard was also so well supported with just over 300 people attending, which made for fabulous singing. A huge thank you to the staff at the Village Café, Ian and Diana, Di and Phillip, East Coker Parish Council, the Strolling Carollers, East Coker Scouts and finally to all the villagers who have given their time and assistance so generously.

Thank you so much xxx

### Café opening hours for January

Friday 11<sup>th</sup>, 10.00am - 2.30pm

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> to Friday 18<sup>th</sup>, 10.00am - 2.30pm

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> to Friday 25<sup>th</sup>, 10.00am - 2.30pm

### Café opening hours for February

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> to Friday 15<sup>th</sup>, 10.00am - 2.30pm

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10.00 - 2.30pm

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> to the end of February, and then hopefully our opening hours will all be back to normal. I'm so sorry for any inconvenience with these temporary hours.

Our first Sunday lunch will be on Sunday 10 March.

Wishing you all a joyous and wonderful New Year xxx

## THANK YOU

Each passing year leaves memories. For me, one of my memories will be of the Remembrance of the First World War and the large poppies on the lamp posts and the display in the Church and Hall and at the North Coker Tree.

My parents often spoke of loved ones who did not come back, and I have vivid memories of the friends who never came back together with the bombing. I can still hear the thud as the bombs dropped on Leicester and the blaze in the sky as Coventry was bombed.

It's good to be reminded of all those who gave their lives for our today. My thanks to the Legion, and also to the Bell Ringers for their muffled peal before the Service, and their joyous peal at the end. I've only rung bells once but I do know muffling takes time.

Thank you, Monica

## THE MOBILE LIBRARY

We are very fortunate to still have the Mobile Library visiting East Coker every 4 weeks from 12.40pm to 12.55pm on a Tuesday, stopping at the Helyar Arms. These dates are published on the Parish Council's website calendar at [www.eastcokerparish.com](http://www.eastcokerparish.com) and in East Coker Society's Diary.

**Dates: Tuesday 15 January    Tuesday 12 February    Tuesday 12 March    Tuesday 9 April**

## BADMINTON

Are you interested in playing badminton on a Thursday afternoon during term times? We are a group of mixed ability and would welcome new members. Playing from 2.15pm until 3.15pm but being able to extend the time if numbers increase.

If you are interested, please contact either Hebe Bowes tel. 863884 or Joyce Pryor tel 862816

**BRITISH SUMMER TIME – Begins Sunday 31 March October.** Clocks go forward one hour.



## YEOVIL RUGBY CLUB

The Club have a strong Minis and Junior section. We currently have about 200 children, both boys and girls ranging in ages from U7 to colts at 18 years. As a part of this, we also have 3 dedicated girls' squads U13, U15 and U18. The ladies and girls are in fact the fastest growing sections as the game grows and becomes more popular with ladies.

With the minis and juniors teams, each team has a dedicated qualified coach that is DBS checked and team managers.

All the coaches, managers and committee are volunteers who are committed to grass roots rugby. We are an RFU accredited club and coach kid's first rugby, which means we want children to have fun, in a safe environment and enjoy playing rugby. This is why we as a club have adopted the RFU core values.

### **'TEAMWORK- RESPECT-ENJOYMENT-DISCIPLINE AND SPORTSMANSHIP'**

No matter what your ability, age or experience we are always keen to welcome new players, come and give it a TRY! We always encourage volunteers to help run the section, so if you have a skill we can use please get in touch. We also need sponsors for the teams to help purchase kit; if you can help, please get in touch

Our rugby season starts in September and runs until the end of April. Our training/playing times are every Sunday from 10.00am until midday, and the older age groups also training on one evening during the week.

If you are interested, please contact Mark on [mark.davidge1@gmail.com](mailto:mark.davidge1@gmail.com) or 07835 787157.

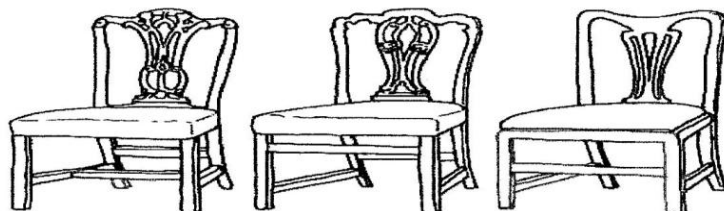
## BONFIRES

It pays 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.

## NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **April 2019**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or email [l.lindsay@eastcoker.com](mailto:l.lindsay@eastcoker.com), by **Friday 22 March 2019 or before if possible**.

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# QUARTERLY VILLAGE DIARY

January 2019 – April 2019

Mon 14 Jan	W I – Fun & Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 15 Jan	Library	12.40pm - 12.55p	Helyar Arms
Thurs 17 Jan	W I – Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 19 Jan	Wine Circle – WW! Theme Party	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 21 Jan	Time To Share – Take Note	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 25 Jan	Coffee Morning – Help for Heroes	10.00am - 12.00pm	The Forester's
Sat 26 Jan	The Scouts – Newspaper Collection	9.00am-10.30am	Opposite the Café
Mon 28 Jan	East Coker WEA	2.00pm-3.30pm	Hardington
Tues 29 Jan	Poetry Group – Guest Poets from Bristol	7.30pm	Helyar Arms
Wed 30 Jan	FilmFlixs – Swimming with Men	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 31 Jan	W I – Meeting	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 4 Feb	Time To Share – Mini Desert Island Discs	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 4 Feb	The Players – Meeting	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 6 Feb	Wine Circle – Pancakes And Tasting	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 6 Feb	Book Club	2.00pm	Goose Slade Farm
Mon 11 Feb	W I – Fun and Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 12 Feb	Library	12.40pm - 12.55pm	Helyar Arms
Thurs 14 Feb	Gardening Club – Composting Tips	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 18 Feb	Time To Share – Wiltshire Farm Foods	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 21 Feb	W I – Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 22 Feb	Coffee Morning – Lifeboats	10.00am - 12.00pm	The Forester's
Sat 23 Feb	The Scouts – Newspaper Collection	9.00am-10.30am	Opposite the Café
Tues 26 Feb	Poetry Group – R S Thomas	7.30pm	Helyar Arms
Wed 27 Feb	FilmFlixs – The Wife	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 28 Feb	W I – Further Tales	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 4 Mar	Time To Share – What's in the Bag? (Fun)	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 6 Mar	Wine Circle – Bonnie Sartin	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 6 Mar	Book Club	2.00pm	Goose Slade Farm
Mon 11 Mar	W I – Fun and Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 12 Mar	Library	12.40pm - 12.55p	The Helyar Arms
Thurs 14 Mar	Gardening Club – Plant Hunters	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 16 Mar	East Coker WEA – Tudor Portraits	10.00am – 1.00pm	Hardington
Mon 18 Mar	Time To Share – My Life at Sea	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 21 Mar	W I – Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
<b>Fri 22 Mar</b>	<b>Copy required for April Newsletter</b>		
Sat 23 Mar	W I – Jumble Sale	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 26 Mar	Poetry Group – Open Evening	7.30pm	Helyar Arms
Wed 27 Mar	FilmFlixs – King of Thieves	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 28 Mar	W I – Annual Meeting	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 29 Mar	Coffee Morning – Cystic Fibrosis	10.00am - 12.00pm	The Forester's
Sat 30 Mar	The Scouts – Newspaper Collection	9.00am-10.30am	Opposite the Café
Sun 31 Mar	Benefice Mothering Sunday Service	10.00am	St Michael's
Sun 31 Mar	British summer time begins clocks go forward one hour		
Mon 1 Apr	Time To Share – Funny Stories	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 3 Apr	Book Club	2.00pm	Goose Slade Farm
Thurs 4 Apr	Action Medical Research	7.00pm	Northover Manor
Sat 6 Apr	Scouts – Jumble Sale	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 8 Apr	W I – Fun & Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall