

East Coker Society Newsletter



January 2020

Free Issue No 177

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

A Happy and hopefully a healthy New Year to all our readers

We have two events for you to look forward to in 2020.

Saturday 29 February, 10.00am to 4.00pm, East Coker Hall – East Coker Society’s Exhibition of Village photographs and memorabilia

We have a wonderful collection of village photos which have not been exhibited for some years, so please come with your family and friends. Refreshments will be available. We already have promises of material from the Wine Circle, the Players and a few individuals, but we would welcome further contributions of photos, documents, pictures and any other records of village life.

Please contact Sarah Owen on 01935 862218.

Saturday 24 October, 2 00pm to 4 00pm, East Coker Hall – East Coker Society’s Winter Fayre

We all missed the Fayre in 2019, so be sure to save the date for this year. If you would like a stall, do book early by contacting Sarah Owen on 01935 862218.

Village Clubs and Organisations

EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

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

Wednesday 5 February	Cider from Ham Hill – tasting
Wednesday 4 March	Cheese Norseland from Ilchester (Tasting)
Wednesday 1 April	“Foolish Wines” from Majestic (Tasting)
Friday 20 March	Sound of Music - Octagon Theatre, 7.30pm

We welcome new members. Come along and enjoy a great evening, bring snacks and your own drink choices with glasses.

Sarah Rashley

TIME TO SHARE

January

Monday 13 - “We’ll meet Again”	Monday 27 - Who am I?
--------------------------------	-----------------------

February

Monday 10 - Silver Chix (Singers)	Monday 24 - Montacute NT – Talk
-----------------------------------	---------------------------------

March

Monday 9 - Card Bingo

Monday 23 - Tails of a Vet (Bill Petheram)

April

Monday 6 - Making Easter Cards

Hello East Coker! **Time to Share** is a club for older folk that has been running for almost 50 years. We meet every other Monday in the East Coker Hall and always have happy and fun afternoons with good interesting speakers, homemade cake and cups of tea. Last year, we lost quite a few of our long-term members, who we all miss a lot. And now we are desperate to get some new ones! Please come along and give us a go. I can promise you a good laugh, even though it is often at my expense as I forget more things than I remember these days. Fortunately, Anne Hartley is usually on hand to help me out, and we all have a jolly afternoon. Anybody who was at the Christmas lunch this year will confirm that we really do know how to enjoy ourselves. It was amazing.

See you soon, I hope. 2020 must be the year for sharing our time and helping out with loneliness.

Thank you, Sandra 862162

Have you made your New Year's resolutions?

This year let's make more meaningful connections with our community. Let's reach out, let's reconnect, let's switch on to those around us. Let's be more together.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH

Dates for diaries:

Friday 17 April 2020, 7.15pm for 7.30pm at East Coker Hall, our Annual Cheese & Wine Evening with a difference – see below for details.

Poppy Appeal Our 2019 collection to date is £6,571.49. Many thanks to Dave Giles for taking over as Poppy Appeal Organiser (PAO) at short notice.

House to House collections continued. Not all areas were covered, as some collectors retired after many years of volunteering.

We are still looking for new collectors, would you be willing to join the team? Helping the RBL in their continued support of our service personnel, their families, veterans and dependants. Why not make life a little easier for someone?

Please contact Dave Giles 01935 433644 Mob 07733 22806 d.giles39@gmail.com

Victory in Europe VE75. Beware! May Bank holiday 2020 falls on **Friday 8 May** to coincide with VE75 celebrations.

The branch is celebrating it a little earlier on **17 April** at our **Cheese & Wine Evening**. We have a group booked, "The Decadettes", four ladies who sing the old songs we remember. The Hall will be decked out with flags and bunting, bring your own flags if you wish. Come along and enjoy the food washed down with wine or soft drink or two. Look out nearer the date on village notice boards for further information.

David Holland Chairman 862782 d.holland632@btinternet.com

Secretary Marilyn Smith 863944

Membership Sec Dave Giles 01935 433644 Mob. 07733 22806 d.giles39@gmail.com

EAST COKER PLAYERS

Happy New Year to you all.

We hope you enjoyed our Robin Hood and The Babes in The Wood Pantomime. 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 so hard behind the scenes.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of two former members during December, Nora White and Angela Rees.

Nora joined the Players in 1979 and became our Treasurer in 1981. Retiring in January 2015, she took an active part in many productions over the years and was involved with the making of costumes. In recent years, she helped front of house on the draw table.

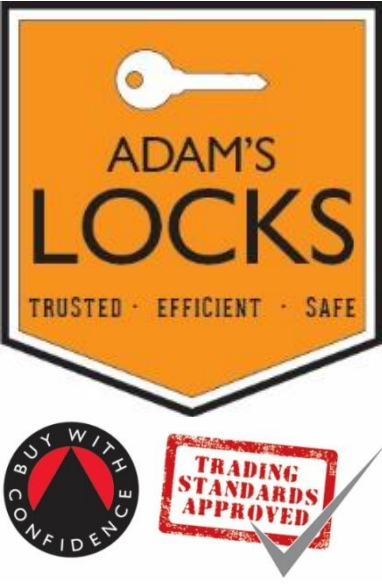
Angela also joined in the early years and took part in the Music Hall productions with her late husband Arthur. She also sold tickets for us from her home.

Our Annual General Meeting is on 6 January 2020 at 7.00pm, we will be discussing how we will use the money raised from the pantomime and which local charity/s will benefit.

At the 10 February meeting at 7.00pm, we will be finding out about the plans of our new Pantomime producer Ami and what title she has chosen for us. Ami was in our last Pantomime and has decided to give the role of producer a go. Afterwards, we will watch a 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



- 24-hour Emergency Service
- Locks changed, repaired & replaced
- New locks fitted
- UPVC door & window service
- Key cutting on site

For a free non-obligation quotation, please contact me today.

OAP discounts given and no VAT to pay.

Mobile: 07541 697203
Tel: 01460 75038
E-mail: adamslocks@hotmail.co.uk
www.adams-locks.co.uk

BURTON BOOK CLUB

We now meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm. Instead of at Goose Slade Farm, we get together in individual member's homes.

We read books from the library and try to include a wide variety of genres.

For more information, call Penny on 01935 863055.

EAST COKER ANNUAL VILLAGE CHRISTMAS LUNCH – 'THANK YOU'

A huge 'thank you' to all those involved in organising this excellent village event. There are not many villages which benefit from events such as these. It is a great testament to those who originally instigated the Christmas Lunch that it still remains an event to which so many people look forward.

Thank you to all of you and best wishes for 2020.

Helen Styles

FILMFLIXS – Films at East Coker Hall



Film nights recommence on Wednesday, 29 January.

Wednesday 29 January – *Mrs Lowry and Son*
Wednesday 26 February - *Downton*
Wednesday 25 March – *Official Secrets*

We endeavour to provide a variety of films but are limited by what is offered to us. A minimum audience of 45 is needed in order to continue with these evenings. As we are sure most of you are aware, the East Coker Hall is a charitable trust and cannot afford to host evenings such as film nights at a loss.

Film nights are organised by a very small, dedicated group of people and we very much hope that support for these evenings will increase.

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

For further details, contact 01935 863002 or 01935 862447

Lawrence Electricals



Domestic / Commercial / Security
(inc. Alarms / CCTV)

From Extra Sockets to Full Rewire

Tel: 01935-891090
Mobile: 07889 511576

Lawrence Dolan
City & Guilds Accredited

Free Estimates

EAST COKER WI

Ladies do you value friendship, fun, informative talks, outings, gentle exercise and even the odd card game? Then join us on the last Thursday of each month. We also participate in inter-institute skittle matches, ten pin bowling and golf croquet.

At the end of January, we welcome Dr Francis Burroughs talking about his mother's experiences during the Second World War and in February we have the intriguing talk on 'Science in a Box', whilst in March we have our annual meeting followed by a beetle drive.

We will be holding our Jumble Sale on Saturday 14 March at 2.00pm at the East Coker Hall and are continuing to provide refreshments during the course of the afternoon.

The Whist Drives continue on the third Thursday of the month at 7.00pm in the Dampier Room, open to anyone who enjoys a card game.

The Fun and Games sessions continue in the afternoon on one Monday of the month at 2.00pm at the East Coker Hall and are open to any villager.

For other information, please contact our secretary Ruby Rollo tel 475010

WI diary dates

Thursday 16 January	Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 30 January	In the Mood	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Monday 3 February	Fun and Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 20 February	Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 27 February	Science in a Box	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Monday 2 March	Fun and Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Saturday 14 March	Jumble Sale	200pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 19 March	Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 26 March	Annual Meeting	7.30pm	East Coker Hall

EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

What a delight to watch David Moon's presentation, ***Gardens from near and far***, at our October meeting. As always, the photographs were accompanied by carefully chosen music, giving a very relaxed atmosphere to the entire evening. In November, The Red House supplied an excellent two-course carvery meal at our AGM. The committee members were all re-elected, but with some minor changes to their responsibilities for the coming year. These are Gill Evans (Chair), Helen Styles (Treasurer/Press Secretary), Stan Shayler (Trips), Yvonne Shayler (Trips), Linda Mayne ('Propagator'), and Mollie Hoskinson (Plant & Produce Stall). All the committee members take on ad hoc projects as necessary. As the second Thursday in December happened to be the date chosen for the General Election, members met again at The Red House, where we enjoyed festive food, festive music and a quiz. Gold coins were the prize for the winning team, which racked up 32 points out of a possible 35.

The 2020 programme has been printed and will be available to members at the January meeting, when the annual membership subscription is due. Compilation of the 2021 programme has commenced – this is quite a task, undertaken by the Chairperson. Suggestions from members for speakers, topics and interesting places to visit are always welcome.

The 2020 programme

Thursday 13 February - ***The Bishop's Palace Gardens – past, present and future*** (James Cross)

Thursday 12 March - ***A Victorian Head Gardener*** (Dr Francis Burroughes).

Trips scheduled in 2020 are to The Newt, Bruton (Tuesday 12 May), Tyntesfield (Wednesday 24 June) and Dyrham Park (Thursday 3 September). The Newt was formerly Hadspen House, where Nori and Sandra Pope created their famous, innovative, colour planting in the parabola garden. Tyntesfield and Dyrham Park are both NT properties. Provided there are spare seats on the coach, non-members are welcome to join these trips.

The Club Annual Holiday to the Isle of Wight is fully booked, and soon thoughts will turn to where to go in 2021!

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 in the East Coker Hall, Halves Lane, East Coker. For further information, please contact Helen Styles 01935 862447 or Stan Shayler 01935 420291

EAST COKER HALL CHARITABLE TRUST

East Coker Hall Charitable Trust Committee – Urgent need for a Treasurer

The East Coker Hall is run by a committee made up from representatives of users of the Hall, along with the Officers, who are elected each year at the AGM. During 2019, we have been without a Treasurer, due to the sudden death of Paul Edwards, whom many of you will have known as the 'person who does the oil'. We currently remain without a treasurer and would very much like to have this position filled. If you have a little spare time and feel you would like to help run and support a valuable village community facility, please contact either John Hollis or Helen Styles.

Christmas at the Hall

Every year, a small team meets up to decorate the hall for Christmas. Swags are lifted and secured in place, a theme is thought up (usually at the last minute and out of thin air!) for the alcove in the entrance porch. Once the tree has been put in place, the Little Wheelers kindly make and hang the decorations for it. Decorations are in place, done and dusted, by the end of November, ready in time for the annual great village events of the Pantomime and the Christmas Lunch.

So, our thanks to the 'Decorating Team' and also to the pairs of extra hands roped in this year to help with hanging the swags. We hope you all had a good Christmas, and wish you a happy, peaceful New Year.

East Coker Hall website

The Hall has a website where you can find information about the hall, availability and various events. <http://eastcokervillagehall.co.uk/>

EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

Result of the East Coker Poetry Competition 2019

Our theme this year was '**The Poetic Highway Code**' which could be interpreted in any way the entrant wished. For example, the inspiration could be anything from a particular journey to the lights, signs or yellow lines that 'decorate' our roads.

Juliet Lacey and **Nell Stephens** are joint winners of the main poetry category. **David Cloke** wins the short poem category

Forthcoming events (meetings start at 7.30pm)

Tuesday 28 January – T S Eliot's Wasteland. Jem Langworthy will guide us through the complexities of Eliot's most iconic poem – one which can frustrate, baffle, intrigue and delight – explaining the imagery and allusions and examining why, nearly 100 years after it was written, this is still very much a poem for today.

Tuesday 25 February – Love Poetry. As February is the month of St Valentine, Heather has agreed to lead a meeting on the subject of love, a subject which, surprisingly, has not been covered by the group before (so far as I know). Please bring along a couple of your favourite love poems (we'll want to fit in as many as possible, so no 25-verse sagas please).

And, to add a little spice, we will hold an informal **love poem competition**. If you wish to enter, please bring along to the meeting a love poem of your own –no more than 20 lines or so. Give it to Heather when you arrive and don't put your name on it (the entries will be judged anonymously during the break by Keita, our generous host at the café). All the entries can then be included in the poems read in the second half.

Entering this competition is not compulsory – if you want to just come and listen, please feel free to do so. That said, we hope that at least a few of you will enter as poor Heather doesn't want to have to eat the prize (a heart-shaped box of chocolates) all on her own!

Our website www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk

For more information, contact David Cloke, Group Coordinator email info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk

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



ROBERT FRITH OPTOMETRISTS

(Incorporating Harts Eyecare)

Experienced optometrists delivering outstanding eye care in a relaxed and friendly environment.



A wide range of products and services including NHS Somerset-funded ACES emergency appointments and the latest 3D retinal scanning technology.

All our optometrists extend a warm welcome to new patients joining our practice. Each is a very dedicated member of the profession and between them they have expertise in a variety of disciplines including emergency eye care, diabetes, therapeutics, dry eye management, complex contact lens fitting, binocular vision, dyslexia screening and childrens' eye care.

28 Princes Street, Yeovil

01935 474333

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

EAST COKER FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW

We hope everyone had a great Christmas and will have a Happy New Year. You may be planning on what to plant for the year ahead, here are the changes in the classes for the flower show.

Floral Art – Class 43 arrangement in an apple; Class 44 arrangement to include berries; Class 45 a single flower colour arrangement with foliage; Class 46 arrangement by young person in a jug.

For the cooks – Class 48 beetroot and chocolate cake (the recipe will be in the schedule); Class 50 5x shortbread biscuits; Class 51 savoury flan; Class 54 rock cakes x5.

Crafters – Class 64 Thank You card; Class 63 Jewellery or badge;

Photography – Class 70 same class; Class 71 Something that flies; Class 72 Country Lane; Class 73 Night-time; Class 74 abandon building; Class 75 Black and White; Class 76 boats x4.

Children Classes – Class 77 fingerprint picture; Class 78 face on a paper plate; Class 79 something made from plasticine or dough.

Regards Sarah

EAST COKER VILLAGE QUIZ – Saturday 7 March 2020, 7.00-pm for 7.30pm start

The Village Quiz will again be run by the Scouts on Saturday 7 March 2020. Hopefully, you will have received this year's details before you read this Newsletter.

However, if you have not, or would like more information, please do email us as below. The Quiz is almost complete, and the Cockerel Trophy is having a new plinth added to make space for more winning team plaques.



We look forward to seeing everyone on the night.

The Quiz Gopher
eastcokerscouts@gmail.com

Young People

EAST COKER PLAYGROUP

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, £690 was raised to support the preschool.

The preschool was extremely busy in the last few weeks before the Christmas holiday. The children made a Christmas card and decorated a pot into which they planted a spider plant to give to 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.

Our fully qualified staff and their wealth of experience offer quality childcare and education through play. Ofsted have consistently rated the group 'good' and commended us for the interaction and encouragement between staff and children, partnership with parents, teaching and management.

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 www.childcarechoices.gov.uk the Childcare Choices website which makes it easy to find out what's on offer.

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.

East Chinnock Under Fives Preschool

If you are seeking childcare for your 2-year old, East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup accepts children from their 2nd birthday to starting school. The setting has a large outdoor space and a cosy playroom full of resources to facilitate playing and learning.

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

Afternoon Baby & Toddler Session

East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup run a Baby & Toddler Session on Thursday afternoon from 1.30pm to 3.00pm for £2 per family. Pop along and join in the fun, everyone is welcome.

To find out more information, please visit www.eastchinnockunder5spreschool.co.uk or look at our Facebook page East Chinnock 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 Strobe on 07503 751133 or email ecplaygroup@aol.com.

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

2019 came to a close with the Beavers spending an evening at Ready-2-Climb, the Cubs watching the Christmas pantomime at the Octagon and the Scouts choosing to have a party and food at the scout hut.

Planning is well under way for the start of 2020 – the Cubs will be off to the West Coker Twine Works and the Yeovil Police Station; the Scouts have District Football at Westfield and a day hike to look forward to.



Back in October, the Scouts attended a new event – County Hunger Games. This was open to all Scouts in Somerset and was based on the Hunger Games books/films, and over 200 attended. We arrived on Friday evening for the Scouts to be 'reaped' – photo and fingerprints taken plus handing out of 'number' and 'life' wrist bands. Saturday was spent undertaking eight different activities – such as gutting and cooking fish, archery, obstacle course and axe throwing. Then on Saturday evening, they all gathered before the Games began – four hours of being hunted in the woods; successful Scouts had to evade capture before reaching the finish at 00:30am. Our Scouts did extremely well at evading the adult hunters, and when the results were announced on Sunday morning, Charlie had come 2nd overall and Emily 3rd.

A joint Cub and Scout night hike around the village in November was the warm-up for a Cub film and sleepover night in the hut.

At the Remembrance Sunday service, the cubs and scouts who carried the flags, laid our wreathes, read the names out and collected the donations all did extremely well. We had an extra wreath this year as the Cubs had made one of their own – each Cub made a poppy that was then sewn onto a cushion.

There will be a World Scout Jamboree presentation during the Village Quiz in March to show more of the Jamboree and the experiences gained.

We have a leak in the scout hut roof so are hoping to secure funding as soon as possible to replace it.

There are always plenty of tasks to maintain the hut.

Spring Jumble Sale: Saturday 18 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, 9.00am to 10.30am

Saturday 25 January

Saturday 29 February

Saturday 28 March

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



EAST COKER PRIMARY SCHOOL

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year!

Autumn proved to be a very exciting and successful term for the children at East Coker. Not only did we have our residential for our Year 6 pupils camping at Great Wood, but the Year 5 pupils went to see the Lion King at the Bristol Hippodrome.

We have also had many local events for our children to take part in including Year 6 Mock Trials at County Hall, Bikeability training for our Year 5/6 pupils and all our Year 3 pupils have received free brass tuition for ten weeks fully paid for by our PTFA. We have also had events for able mathematicians, and our younger children have been out and about in the village and visiting the Playgroup.

In addition to our visits and walks, we have also had an extremely successful time with the sporting competitions we have taken part in. The school's football team attended the National League tournament hosted by Yeovil Town Community Sports Trust. A total of 21 teams took part in the tournament from schools across Somerset and Dorset, totalling around 210 children. East Coker Primary came out as overall winners of the tournament and will go on to play in the regional finals in March. As a prize for winning the National League Tournament, the boys' football team were welcomed to Yeovil Town FC for a match day experience. They had a tour of the stadium prior to the game followed by a training session with the YTCST coaches. The boys also paraded around the pitch at half time and then enjoyed watching Yeovil take victory. Thank you to our sports coach, Mrs Webber and to our parents who supported this event which took place at a weekend.

We have also attended indoor athletics at Westfield School and went through to the next round. We have had over 50 pupils take part in the cross-country competitions, with many children performing exceptionally

well in their age category. The children have also represented the school in many other events such as Boccia, Netball, infant sports festivals, 'Can Do' sports events and a number of football matches in addition to those mentioned above.

We are extremely lucky to have many teachers at East Coker who give up their free time to run clubs and events in school for our children. We also have an exceptionally energetic and enthusiastic sports coach who ensures all the children get as many sporting opportunities as possible across a wide range of sports before, during and after school and organises all the extra events which are also supported by school staff.

Music also features heavily at East Coker Primary. We have a very active music coordinator who has been very busy organising events for our choir as Christmas time is always very busy for us, particularly when it comes to music. The choir went to sing at the East Coker Hall as part of a Time to Share event, as well as visiting a local residential home to sing some Christmas Carols.

Our staff have also been busy supporting our youngest children with their Christmas Sing-along performance and our Year 1 and Year 2 children with their 'The Prickly Hay' nativity. All children did an amazing job. It definitely put everyone in the Christmas spirit.

We ended the term with our annual Christmas Carol service at St Michael and All Angels' Church on the last afternoon of term. It was a great opportunity for many of our musically talented pupils to showcase their piano, flute, drum and guitar skills as well as an opportunity for both our school choirs to showcase their beautiful singing. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank the peripatetic music teachers who supported the event, Mrs Allen our music coordinator who planned and organised it and to Rev Colin for compering and sharing this special service with us.

Our next big event this term is our Spring Music Concert led by our music coordinator. We will also begin hockey next term which is a new sport for the school thanks to our sports coach.

We have lots of helpers at East Coker who are highly valued by our staff and support with reading, cooking and crafts. We are always looking for volunteers to help, so please do contact the school if you are interested on 01935 862532.

If you would like more information about East Coker School, please look at our website www.eastcokerschool.co.uk. We are always looking for volunteers to help with reading and topic activities, so please do contact the school if you are interested on 01935 862532.

Jane Hesketh-Williams, Head Teacher

The Churches

THE CHAPEL - EAST COKER

We would love to welcome you anytime you would like to pop along to any of our meetings, whether you have a faith or not! 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 events and find out more.

Café Church at East Coker Village Hall. A free breakfast, the chance to meet new people and an opportunity to see what church is really about. Great for all the family! Held on the first Sunday of the month at 11.00am.

Sunday Mornings at East Coker Hall, 11.00am. A time of worship, an inspirational and challenging short message, prayer and plenty of tea and biscuits. Includes Kids Church groups suitable for ages 2-14 years, and monthly all age service.

Little Wheelers at East Coker Hall is a baby and toddler group which runs during term time on Tuesdays from 10.30am-12.00pm. Parents/Guardians remain responsible for their children throughout the session.

For any further details of events or general enquiries, please email ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk or take a look at our website www.eastcokerchapel.com. You can also follow us on Facebook. Tel 01935863735

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH – For a schedule of services, please see the end of this newsletter

There will be a **Benefice Quiz Night – Friday 17 January at 7.00pm**, to be held at West Coker Commemoration Hall, with a Bring & Share Buffet Supper (also bring your own drinks). Please note that all profits from this event will go to the Benefice funds to benefit all of our parishes.

Messy Church After a very successful and fun Christmas Messy Church, the next one will be held on Saturday 8 February from 4.00pm at West Coker Commemoration Hall with the theme being 'Love'. Please look out for posters for more details.

Mothering Sunday is on 22 March, there will be a service at St Michael's at 11.00am, where posies will be given to all the ladies in celebration of Mother's Day.

East Coker Choir Practice takes place every Friday at 6.00pm at St Michael's Church - anyone interested in joining this choir please come along.

Bible Study Group This spring, the group are looking at the book 'Meeting God' by J L Parker as a basis for discussion. The book will lead us through key passages from the Bible to enlarge and deepen our vision of our Heavenly Father. Everyone is welcome - please contact Gillian Smith for details on 01935 862572.

Deborah Wootton – our Children and Families Work Leader – arranged to give each child at both East and West Coker Primary Schools a special chocolate Advent Calendar, which included a booklet telling the story of the birth of Jesus. Both St Michael's and St Martin of Tours PCCs were very pleased to see that this is happening and have pledged funds for the cost of the advent calendars.

Coker Ridge Benefice has a new website www.cokerridge.org.uk

St Michael's is still seeking a Church Warden, please contact Rev Colin Simpson if you wish to know more. Email rector42@iclod.com or telephone 862429.

CAROL SERVICE AT ST. MICHAEL'S

A lovely service was held at St. Michael's just before Christmas. Over 100 people wrapped themselves up well in hats, coats and scarves to hear the bells, and sing some happy carols with the choir all by torch light, and twinkling candles. The Church looked beautiful, with the aisles and ledges lit with Christmas lights - it was quite a sight and something we hope to repeat every year.

A visit to our beautiful Church is a real bonus at Christmastime - it has a magical atmosphere, and if you have not seen the Nativity Scene under the pulpit, you have missed a wondrous sight.

Thank you to everyone in the Parish who helped with this special evening.

Village News

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO

For some time, I have been aware of what a lot happens in East Coker much of it voluntary. Before the excellent Flower Show was over, the rehearsals for the Pantomime had started, oh yes! they had. How enjoyable that was and how hard everybody, cast and all the back-up people, had worked.

That was quickly followed by the Christmas Lunch. How enjoyable that was, but what a lot of hard work went into organising and preparing it. People came from as far away as Sheffield to enjoy the occasion.

Then there was the Carol Service in the beautifully decorated Church. What a lot of hard work went into that by the Choir and Bell-ringers and all those who took part. Again, how much people enjoyed the Carol singing round the Tree on Christmas Eve.

Then there have been all those regular activities, Time to Share, Wine Circle, Film Nights and many more. All need a lot of planning and organising and chair moving.

As well as those Community Activities I have been grateful for all the offers of help I have received this last year, especially when I was unable to drive. Offers of lifts, shopping and those surprise visits and suppers.

Thank you all who do so much for the village and all those of us who are so grateful for the offers of help.

Monica



ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

Our Diva Lunch in October was a sell out and a huge success once again, raising over £9,200 and enjoyed by all. Our lunch this year will be on Friday 16 October 2020.

Our local Cream Tea delivery this year will be on Thursday 18 June, and the following week we will be packing for the National Delivery on Wednesday 24 June, for delivery on the 25th.

Any further information on any of the above, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jane Donnelly 01935 478409 or janedonnelly81@outlook.com

STAMPS FOR CLIC SARGENT (Cancer & Leukaemia in Children)

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

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

EAST COKER CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Christmas Lunch, its success and enjoyment would be impossible without the support and generosity of so many wonderful people. Gifts of delicious desserts, raffle prizes and valuable time all evident in abundance, and, with their continued endeavours producing the meal, Steve and Keita from our favourite Village Café who give so generously, their fantastic team is second to none.

As with many organisations, the need for more help is always in evidence. We are asking for offers of help, whether it be producing desserts, washing up and clearing away, table laying etc – whatever you can offer for the 2020 Christmas Lunch on Sunday 13 December!

A scouting family came along on the Saturday evening setting up the tables and went on to cut the paper for all the tables. Fantastic and much appreciated.

We would love to hear from you, so ring now to book your offer of help for what is always a happy and much enjoyed event.

Although there has been no price increase from the £10 for several years, amazingly a profit of £1,650 was realised last year and shared equally between the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance and the South West Children's Hospice.

A huge thank you to all and a Happy and Healthy New Year

Mary Ashley & Di Miskin

LACEYS

- Friendly, professional, local staff
- Regulated by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
- Family-run business

But don't just take our word for it...

“Excellent service, very friendly and professional, many thanks”
Mr H

“Dedicated, patient, consistent and prompt to follow-up, respond and do everything [they] could to help it through”
Mr D

“If you have any doubts which Local estate agent to use then look no further - great, genuine, honest people”
Mr & Mrs J

“From start to finish, Laceys Estate Agents provided 5 star service”
Mrs P

Laceys Yeovil Ltd
12 - 14 Hendford | Yeovil | BA20 1TE
01935 425 115
laceysyeovil.co.uk

RICS If you have instructed another agent on a Sole Agency or Sole Selling Rights basis, the terms of those instructions must be considered to avoid a possible liability to pay two commissions.

The Property Ombudsman

THE MOBILE LIBRARY

We are very fortunate to still have the Mobile Library visiting East Coker every four 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 and in East Coker Society's Newsletter Diary.

Dates: Tuesday 28 January Tuesday 25 February Tuesday 24 March

THANK YOU TO OUR PARISH COUNCIL

How beautiful and festive our village has looked over the Christmas period thanks to the sparkling trees on the bus shelter at North Coker and in the Paddock. These things really make a difference to us all and are thanks to the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm of our Parish Councillors, all of whom volunteer their time so gladly. Now we can look forward to a cheerful display of spring colour from the bulbs which have recently been planted with the help of the Garden Club and Scouts.

Thank you, Parish Council, for looking after our village so well.

www.eastcoker.com

EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Councillors

The Parish Council would like to welcome Richard Comstive to the team and look forward to working with him.

We say a sad farewell to Councillor Henocq who has stepped down as a Councillor. We would like to thank her for her dedication over the past few years.

There are now three Councillor vacancies available, so if you feel you can give up a few hours each month to help make important decisions which affect the Parish, please send a letter of intent to: clerk@eastcokerparish.com

Village bulb planting

The past couple of months have seen both the East Coker Cubs and the East Coker Gardening Club busy planting spring bulbs.

The Gardening Club concentrated their efforts on planting around the East Coker Hall, whilst the Cubs travelled around the village to no less than twenty different locations.

We are certain that their hard work will pay off when the village bursts into flower come the springtime. A huge thank you to all who were involved!

Christmas celebrations

Yet again the Village Café hosted the most wonderful evening on Christmas Eve. With (as always) warm welcomes, yummy food, mulled wine and as ever Steve and Keita were the best hosts, so thank you from the bottom of our hearts to them for giving so much to our village.

Thank you to the group of helpers, both large and small who met on 8 December in the Paddock to erect the most beautiful tree.

Keyford update

A meeting was held by SSDC on the 18 December regarding the Keyford Planning Application. In spite of East Coker and Barwick and Stoford Parish Councils united opposition, permission was granted.

Date for the diary

Don't forget to update your new calendars with the Community Lunch event which will be held again at the Village Café on Saturday 13 June 2020. Hopefully the sun will shine on us again.

Watch this space for VE Day Celebrations on Friday 8 May 2020.

Tourist information leaflets

New leaflets have been printed and are now available in the Village Cafe, St Michael's Church, The Helyar Arms and Gooslade Farmshop. The village video is also now playing in the Tourist Information Centre at Cartgate.

Dog waste bins

Please could you not use the Council dog waste bins for dog waste that you have collected from your gardens. The Council bins are emptied regularly and it all goes into the same land fill, so anything collected from your garden can be disposed of in your own dustbin.

Enjoying our countryside

Many people will have noticed that lambing is well under way, so can we remind everyone to keep their dogs on leads in or near fields of sheep.

Village ranger

Our ranger Karen continues to do a fantastic job of keeping our village looking smart and tidy.

If you see anything which could do with her attention, please either email the clerk clerk@eastcokerparish.com or contact Cllr B Sugg on 07907 621106. If you see her working near you, please offer her a cuppa.

Visit our website for full information on forthcoming events, Councillors and contact details. www.eastcokerparish.co.uk

AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE

We've had a complaint regarding speeding vehicles on Sandhurst Road as you leave Yeovil heading into East Coker so it's a reminder, again, to stick to the relevant speed limits, in this case it still is **30mph**.

If anyone is interested in finding out about Community Speed Watch which is where local Volunteers can help with regards to this, please let me know.

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.

Regards, Fiona Wilson PCSO 8380

Neighbourhood Policing Dept | Avon and Somerset Police
Yeovil Police Station, Horsey Lane, YEOVIL, Somerset BA20 1SN
Tel 101 Mob 07889 659261

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

Email fiona.wilson@avonandsomerset.police.uk

WEA COKER BRANCH – covering the Cokers and Hardington Mandeville

We have held some very interesting and well attended talks during the autumn of 2019 and we are all looking forward to 2020 and listening to more enlightening and knowledgeable speakers.

Our first off is for a 6-week course on **Garden Design**. This is led by Marion Dale and will cover the main influences that have shaped English garden style. It may help to evaluate inspirations on gardens you subsequently visit.

This course starts on **Thursday 16 January 2020 at 2.00pm** in Hardington Mandeville Village Hall and lasts for an hour and a half each week. Tea and coffee are available at the start of the talks. It costs £33 for the 6 sessions.

On **Saturday 8 February** we have a talk about canals, with a particular look at those in the West Country, especially Somerset. This focus on **English Canals** by Michael Turner will look at their contribution to industrial and social history, their expansion, decline and recent renaissance.

This starts at 9.45am for coffee and tea and finishes at 3.30pm in Hardington Mandeville Village Hall and costs £28 which includes a sandwich lunch.

We have a day school on **Leonardo Da Vinci** on **Saturday 7 March** in the Dampier Room at East Coker Hall. This course by Bridget Stirling will look at the man, his work and the influences and passions that drove him. His drawings can be argued as being futuristic and possibly prophetic and show a deep understanding of the underlying human anatomy.

This starts at 10.00am and finishes at 3.30pm and costs £28 which includes a sandwich lunch.

You can apply for all these by phoning 0300 303 3464 or by going online to wea.org.uk.

For more information, you can call Gill Evans on 01953 862703 or Viv Ford on 01935 863954.

BST – Sunday 29 March 2020 - Daylight saving time 2020 in UK will begin at 01.00am.

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **April 2020**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay at l.lindsay@eastcoker.com by **Monday 23 March 2020 or before if possible**.

Mon 13 Jan	Time To Share – “We’ll meet again”	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 16 Jan	WI – Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Friday 17 Jan	Benefice Quiz Night	7.00pm	West Coker Hall
Sat 25 Jan	The Scouts – Newspaper Collection	9.00am – 10.30am	Opposite the Café
Mon 27 Jan	Time To Share – Who am I?	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 28 Jan	Poetry Group – T S Eliot’s – The Wasteland	7.30pm	The Village Café
Tues 28 Jan	Library	12.40pm – 12.55pm	Helyar Arms
Wed 29 Jan	FilmFlixs – Mrs Lowry and Son	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 30 Jan	WI – In the mood	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 3 Feb	WI – Fun and Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 5 Feb	Wine Circle – Cider from Ham Hill	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 10 Feb	Time To Share – Silver Chix – Singers	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 10 Feb	The Players – Meeting for Panto 2020	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 13 Feb	Gardening Club – The Bishop’s Palace	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 20 Feb	Time To Share – Montacute NT Talk	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 20 Feb	WI – Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 25 Feb	Poetry Group – Love Poetry	7.30pm	Village Café
Tues 25 Feb	Library	12.40pm – 12.55pm	Helyar Arms
Wed 26 Feb	FilmFlixs – Downton	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 27 Feb	WI – Science in a Box	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 29 Feb	East Coker Society – Village Exhibition	10.00am – 4.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 29 Feb	The Scouts – Newspaper Collection	9.00am – 10.30am	Opposite the Café
Mon 2 Mar	WI – Fun & Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 4 Mar	Wine Circle – Cheese – Tasting	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 7 Mar	Scouts – Village Quiz	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 9 Mar	Time To Share – Card Bingo	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 12 Mar	Gardening Club – A Victorian Head Gardener	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 14 Mar	WI – Jumble Sale	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 19 Mar	WI – Whist Drive	7.0pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 20 Mar	Wine Circle Sound of Music	7.30pm	Octagon Theatre
Mon 23 Mar	Time To Share – Tail of a Vet	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 23 Mar	Copy for April Newsletter		
Tues 24 Mar	Library	12.40pm – 12.55pm	Helyar Arms
Wed 25 Mar	FilmFlixs – Official Secrets	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 26 Mar	WI – AGM	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 28 Mar	The Scouts – Newspaper Collection	9.00am – 10.30am	Opposite the Café
Wed 1 Apr	Wine Circle – Foolish Wines – Tasting	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 6 Apr	Time To Share – Making Easter Cards	2.30pm	East Coker Hall



The Coker Ridge Benefice

Closworth, East Chinnock, East Coker, Hardington Mandeville, Pendermer, Sutton Bingham & West Coker

5 th January 2020	08:00 11:00	East Coker Sutton Bingham	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion (BCP)
12 th January	09:15 11:00	Closworth East Coker	Holy Communion Family Communion
19 th January	11:00 18:00	Sutton Bingham East Coker	Holy Communion (BCP) Evening Prayer (BCP)
26 th January	11:00 18:30	East Coker Closworth	Holy Communion Evening Prayer (BCP)
2 nd February	08:00 11:00	East Coker Sutton Bingham	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion (BCP)
9 th February	09:15 11:00	Closworth East Coker	Holy Communion (BCP) Family Communion
16 th February	11:00 18:00	Sutton Bingham East Coker	Holy Communion (BCP) Evening Prayer (BCP)
23 rd February	11:00 18:30	East Coker Closworth	Holy Communion Evening Prayer (BCP)
26 th February Ash Wednesday	19:00	East Coker	Imposition of Ashes
1 st March	08:00 11:00	East Coker Sutton Bingham	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion (BCP)
8 th March	09:15 11:00	Closworth East Coker	Holy Communion (BCP) Family Communion
15 th March	11:00 18:30	Sutton Bingham East Coker	Holy Communion (BCP) Evening Prayer (BCP)
22 nd March Mothering Sunday	11:00 18:30	East Coker Closworth	Holy Communion Evening Prayer (BCP)
29 th March	10:00	Hardington	Benefice Service
5 th April	08:00 11:00	East Coker Sutton Bingham	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion
10 th April Good Friday	12:00	East Coker	Reflections of the Cross
11 th April	20:15 or 20:30	Sutton Bingham	Service of Light (Easter Liturgy)
12 th April Easter Day	09:15 11:00	Closworth East Coker	Holy Communion Family Communion
19 th April	11:00 18:00	Sutton Bingham East Coker	Holy Communion (BCP) Evening Prayer (BCP)
26 th April	11:00 18:30	East Coker Closworth	Holy Communion Evening Prayer (BCP)

Please note there is a Holy Communion at St Michael's East Coker every Thursday at 10am – all are welcome.