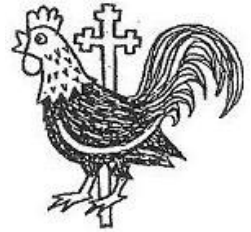


East Coker Society Newsletter



January 2022

Free Issue No 185

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Secretary: Sarah Owen:	862218	
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East Coker Society News

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

The New Year presents a time for making personal resolutions. Whatever they may be, we hope that all your lives will improve this year. Most of us will certainly wish for the opportunity to spend more time with our friends and families.

This is a very special year as The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee. The Queen acceded to the throne on 6 February 1952 at the age of 25 and has provided our nation with 70 years of service. An extended Bank Holiday from Thursday 2 June to Sunday 5 June will provide an opportunity for us to celebrate and reflect on this historic milestone. East Coker has always been very active in commemorating and celebrating such anniversaries, so we hope you will either help to organise or join in with events planned by our clubs and organisations. More information will follow.

Looking back briefly at last year, we would like to thank you for either participating or visiting East Coker Society's Winter Fayre on 23 October. This was able to proceed with appropriate Covid precautions and we were delighted at the turnout and funds raised by local groups and charities.

Keep safe and well.

Sarah Owen
Secretary, East Coker Society

Newsletter copies

Printed copies of this Newsletter will be made available at Goose Slade Farm Shop, the Helyar Arms, St Michael and All Angels' Church, the Village Café and East Coker Hall.

Village Clubs and Organisations

EAST COKER PLAYERS.

Happy New Year to you all.

What a year 2021 has been, we started Pantomime rehearsals in September, with great optimism that we would be able to perform in November. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions we decided to postpone until January 2022. We now have to advise everyone that we are postponing until November 2022. We would like to thank our producer Amie, the cast and everyone behind the scenes for all the work they have done.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Ian White. Ian directed two plays and a Pantomime with us: Beauty and the Beast and Bill and Ben the Twilight Men in May 2013 and Cinderella in 2014. He was a keen supporter of the Players, and we will miss his stage craft knowledge and advice.

We are holding our AGM on Monday 10 January. At this meeting, we will be getting together to discuss the new year programme and forward planning for Pantomime November 2022.

For further details about the Players, contact Anne Hartley 862060

EAST COKER WI

First, we wish everyone a Happy New Year and with hope that the Covid virus can eventually be kept under control.

We are endeavouring to continue as normal and arrange interesting speakers for each month's meeting. We start the year on Thursday 26 January with a talk about "man's best friend". Canine Partners specialise in training dogs to be assistance dogs for people who have physical disabilities. This is obviously a highly specialised subject with a great deal of patience required but a highly rewarding result.

The following month, February, we have arranged for a talk from a local man who has helped in providing essential amenities in Uganda. March sees our AGM with a social time planned, and in April we are introduced to yoga.

Obviously, all speakers are booked with the hope that we do not have to go into a 'lockdown' again. We continue to practice social distancing, the wearing of masks when moving around and also adequate ventilation.

We are recommencing the fun and exercise sessions which are open to anyone over 50 years regardless of gender, ability or Institute membership to come and enjoy different activities plus a social break with tea and cake for just £2.50 a time.

We would very much like to welcome new members to the Institute, especially those who have recently moved to this area and because of Covid restrictions have been unable to meet and make new friends.

Please contact our secretary, Ruby Rollo tel 01935 475010 for any details

Diary dates

Monday 10 January	2.00pm	Fun and exercise	East Coker Hall
Thursday 26 January	7.30pm	Canine Partners	East Coker Hall
Monday 14 February	2.00pm	Fun and exercise	East Coker Hall
Thursday 24 February	7.30pm	Building in Uganda	East Coker Hall
Monday 14 April	2.00pm	Fun and exercise	East Coker Hall
Thursday 31 March	7.30pm	AGM and Social Time	East Coker Hall
Monday 11 March	2.00pm	Fun and exercise	East Coker Hall
Thursday 28 April	7.30pm	Yoga for the lower back	East Coker Hall

Joyce Pryor

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH

We say farewell to 2021 and hopefully look forward to a better 2022.

Because of Covid restrictions, the branch had a very quiet year.

The Legion as a whole continued in its support of the armed forces. Remembrance services took place at the Cenotaph in churches and at memorials throughout the country, although smaller services were well attended. East Coker Scout Group did us proud, parading into church with veterans, the reading of names of the fallen, laying wreaths on the memorial and taking a collection at the end of service. Thank you all.

All monies donated on Remembrance Sunday in our churches are added to the Poppy Appeal total.

We resumed door to door collections in 2021. To date, East Coker and District Poppy Appeal has reached £5,177.95. Thanks to Dave our Poppy Appeal Organiser (PAO) and Marilyn for their organisation. Should you wish to join the team of collectors, please contact any of those listed below.

If you do wish to donate further, the 2021 Poppy Appeal closes end September 2022.

The Queen's Message to the Royal British Legion on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary has been framed and was on display at the memorial in St Michael's, East Coker, during the Remembrance period 2021. It has now been placed in St Martin of Tours', West Coker. and will be moved around other churches within the benefice until March 2022.

Its final display position will be on the RBL display board in West Coker Memorial Hall.

Date for diaries: Subject to any change in Covid restrictions, the Branch will be holding its Annual Cheese & Wine Evening on **Friday 22 April at 7.30pm** with entertainment by the Decadettes, a Dorset based vintage singing group.

Thank you all for your continued support.

David Holland, Chairman. Tel 862782. Email d.holland632@btinternet.com
Marilyn Smith, Secretary. Tel 863944. Email Mazza1944@outlook.com
Dave Giles, Membership and PAO. Tel 07733223806. Email dgiles39@gmail.com

TIME TO SHARE

Time to Share has survived well during Lockdowns and cancellations and changes of venue! It has been a tough time, but we have all kept in touch and cared for each other, and it has been quite a special time. Membership has actually gone up! The Committee is strong, and we all work well together. We enjoy teas in the Cafe, but also like to meet in East Coker Hall and have fun and games and occasionally a speaker to keep us awake!

Here are dates up until end of June. Some interesting things planned apart from eating cake. On **28 March** we have Helen coming to talk to us about our feet and looking after them properly and on **25 April** our illustrious village Vet - Bill Petheram - is coming to talk about his life with animals! So, lots to look forward to.

Hope to see you soon. Sandra 862162; Anne 862060

Meetings

Monday 31 January - Café - 2.30pm

Monday 28 February – East Coker Hall - 2.30pm.

Monday 14 March - Café - 2.30pm

Monday 28 March - East Coker Hall - 2.30pm

Monday 11 April - Café - 2.30pm

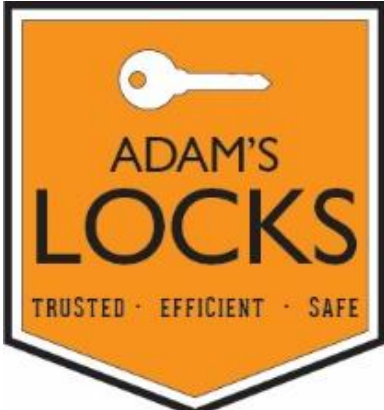
Monday 25 April - East Coker Hall - 2.30pm

Monday 9 May - Café - 2.30pm

Monday 23 May - East Coker Hall - 2.30pm

Monday 6 June Café - 2.30pm

Monday 20 June - East Coker Hall - 2.30pm





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EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

Even a month ago I would not have thought that we would have no meetings booked at the Village Café for 2022. But as I write this, the 'Omicron' variant of Covid has thrown everyone's plans into uncertainty and it seems prudent to delay arranging further meetings at the Village Café until the situation is clearer.

Iona Lambe sent this apt and topical Haiku:

Omicron

Dice are shaken, thrown
And luck spills across the board
Life is a strange game

Let us look back for a moment at the last year. We did have three 'live' meetings:

We started in June with the excellent outdoor event at 'Bales' where the sun did shine, and the food was delicious.

We had an 'open' meeting in September with plenty of poetry starting with a bunch of the boys whooping it up in the Malamute Saloon or rather the Village Café in East Coker.

And of course, the Competition meeting in November where Juliet Lacey and Maya Pieris won the 2021 prizes awarded by poet Gill Barr, who gave us a splendid reading to add to the occasion.

We also organised several 'Zoom' readings and audio-visual presentations earlier in the year. My thanks to all who took part.

My particular thanks to all those who have helped to keep the flag flying for poetry in 2021 by supporting the poetry group in a myriad of ways.

So, in the words of Vera Lynn:

We'll meet again. don't know where, don't know when.....

The Competition subject this year was 'The Elements' and some people took inspiration from the Periodic Table of the elements. Maya Pieris sent in this link which must be the ultimate collection of Haiku poems – click on each element to see each apt poem -

https://vis.sciencemag.org/chemhaiku/?fbclid=IwAR0dxHPVYVfLioeg4bTxqTiumr_K_346544ZznCUAPdNP_EFiI9dHHWA0i0

Poems: Poems: Poems

Trevor Pearce sent in several poems over the last few months – here is one of them:

Sounding the depths on a stormy day

How I love those rare stormy days,
the house to myself.
Wild winds blow, windows closed,
inviting the world to be deaf
to my own private orchestra.

Crows wild in the air
trees, a wild contemporary dance
tearing at the calamitous clouds.
Internally the surface is calm,
unfocussed mirror blooming
on a clouded, waveless sea.

A century of composers await my bidding,
a library of favoured tunes awaiting a playing.
I plumb whatever depths may come,
Rich brass, seamless, soft as my surrounding clouds
Strings, the breeze to lift and lull the sail

Piano, the central driver of my heart.
On gliding hands my heart resides.
On composers' hearts my mind refines,
On pain, compassion, triumph all incline
On mixed emotions, all fly and glide.

Joy is not always looking to the sun.
Joy can be expressed
in the deepest, darkest moments
in slow steps of contemplation.
Two sides of a complicated coin.

Outside the storm rages.
Inside, the maelstrom of emotion.
Refining, realigning, defining.
My soul rising, falling
until the horizon, calm, clear
becomes my harbour and salvation.

Read more of Trevor's poetry at <http://www.bardwindow.com>

And finally, Margaret Hamilton wrote this short poem entry for the 'Elements' competition which I think is worthy of a greater audience, even if it didn't win:

The basics of life

Cake is an element, or if it's not, it should be.
It seems it is a basic of life. Wherever you are, cake is there.
Every coffee morning. Every birthday. Every tea party.
Every office. Every church activity. Every anniversary.
Every wedding. Every funeral. Nothing in life happens
Without CAKE.

Best wishes for 2022.to everyone in the East Coker Poetry Group, David

Website <http://www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk>

Email info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk

ODD JOBS – EAST COKER

My name is Jim Clarke. I have lived in East Coker for 18 years and have recently retired. I have decided to provide a service for older people who live in the village and surrounding areas who cannot afford contractors.

If anybody has any odd jobs that need doing, I would be willing to help for a minimal charge.

If you are interested, please call me on either 01935 863740 or 07532 364987.

EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

Having enjoyed our meetings again during the last months of 2021, we start this year with advice on how to overwinter fuchsias. This will be followed in February by a talk, given by Julie Haylock, on planning a garden structure, and then, in March, about climbing and wall shrubs by Felicity Down. Julie Haylock is a local garden designer and has won several awards for her show gardens. Felicity Down is the former owner of Cleeve Nursery. There is a page on East Coker Hall website for the Gardening Club, which I shall endeavour to keep up to date; if you have access to the web, please do go to <http://eastcokervillagehall.co.uk/> and look at the Gardening Club page.

We are always happy to welcome visitors and new members; whether you are interested in gardening or would just like to join a group of friendly, sociable people, this club could be for you. Visits are arranged

during the year to places and gardens of interest. *The Propagator*, a free newsletter containing Club news, notes of gardening events, tips, etc is distributed via email and at each meeting for those not on email. During the growing season there is a produce stall, stocked by members with plants and produce.

Meetings and day trips are all very well supported. 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 East Coker Hall, Halves Lane, East Coker. For further information, and to request a free trial visit, please contact Helen Styles 01935 862447.

In the meantime, if you wish to speak to us, please do phone me 01935 862447 or Stan Shayler 01935 420291.

With our very best wishes for a happy, healthy life and a good growing year during 2022.

Helen

Young People

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

We've had a busy term across our sections with a great variety of activities undertaken. At the end of term, we returned to the Scout Association 'Back Together Safely' Readiness Level Yellow. This means the Scout section must again wear masks indoors.

The Cubs spent time out at Pendomer for den building and have been working through their Air Activities badge. They enjoyed the pantomime at the Octagon, and both the Beavers and Cubs had sessions at climbing at Ready-2-Climb.

The Scouts have been learning and practising emergency aid and fire safety, in between some astronautics. Our attempts to see the stars for the astronomer activities were scuppered by the clouds and rain. A Christmas party at the hut allowed for eating doughnuts on strings and making cotton wool beards.

The Cubs and Scouts both supported the Remembrance Service at the church. We paraded our flags, laid two wreaths (one made by the Cubs and Beavers) and helped the collection.

With regards to fundraising, we have rebooked the Village Quiz for 26 March. However, with the continuing presence of Covid, this again will be assessed nearer the time.

We hope Covid allows for a fuller programme of activities in 2022; planning and dates are in hand for day hikes, backwoods camps, fox trophy hike weekend and camping competition.

David Webber, Group Scout Leader, eastcokerscouts@gmail.com



East Coker Village Quiz

The Village Quiz has been rebooked for **Saturday 26 March**.

However, with the continuing presence of Covid, this again will be assessed nearer the time.

The Quiz Gopher, eastcokerscouts@gmail.com



EAST COKER PLAYGROUP (FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK: EAST COKER PRESCHOOL)

Autumn term has delivered many opportunities for discovery. Each morning, the children come together for registration, to chat about what they have been doing - the day, the date and the weather. After observing a rainbow, we found out what makes a rainbow and all the children helped to make a rainbow to display in the setting.

We continue to observe enhanced cleaning regimes and adhere to government guidelines regarding Covid-19, working with families to keep the setting operating.

This December, our Festive Songs were sung outside beside a wooden tree decorated by the children with fir cones, sprigs of rosemary, onions, beetroot, and sweet chestnuts! It was so cold, but everyone wore layers and warmed up with a hot drink afterwards.

The Playgroup is a charity, and all fundraising is essential in supporting the Playgroup. Fundraising will enable the Playgroup to maintain and replace the resources that support the children's learning and development.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Craft Fair in November, you helped raise just over £700. A fantastic achievement and our first fundraiser for many months.

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 8am-4pm.

East Chinnock Under Fives Preschool – Baby and Toddler Session
Thursday, 9:30-11:00, £1.50/family

We have a playroom full of resources and a large outdoor space to facilitate playing and learning.
Pop along and join us for play and chat.

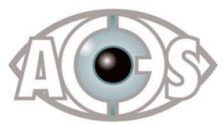
To find out more information, please visit our Facebook page, East Chinnock Playgroup.

For more information and to register your child/children for East Coker Playgroup, please contact Kay Strobe on 07503751133 or email ecplaygroup@aol.com.



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The Churches

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

It is good to have left 2021 behind and we hope that life may eventually return to something more like normality in 2022 but, for the present, we continue to wear masks in Church. Our Christmas services were well supported, and St Michael's looked beautiful with our fine Crib in place, a decorated Christmas tree and candles and displays in all the windows. Some young families enjoyed a Christingle Service, and our Carol Service was much enhanced by the Benefice Choir. Despite the lateness of the hour, the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve was well attended, with young families present too.

This Newsletter will cover Ash Wednesday on 2 March and the period of Lent leading up to the great festival of Easter on 17 April. In between times, there is Mothering Sunday on 27 March, so much to ponder on.

Please contact Barbs Hampshire for the weekly Pew Sheet with all the details officecokerridge@gmail.co or 01935 864574. Office hours are Wed - Fri 10.00am -1.00pm.

Our Services in St Michael's remain as before

1 st Sunday of month	No Service at St Michael's.
2 nd	11.00am Morning Prayer - Lay Led
3 rd	6 00pm Evensong (BCP) - Lay Led.
4 th	11.00am Holy Communion

In addition, there is a 10.00am Holy Communion, followed by refreshments, on Thursdays in St Michael's.

When there is a 5th Sunday in the month, a joint Benefice Holy Communion Service is held in one of our Benefice Churches.

Contact details for the Rector: Reverend Colin Simpson, 7 Cedar Fields, West Coker, BA 22 9DB, email rectorcokerridge@gmail.com, tel. 01935 862429. Office hours, Wed and Fri 10am – 1.00pm.

“I SAID TO THE MAN WHO STOOD AT THE GATE OF THE YEAR”

I write this on a day which lies between two of the Church's significant feast days, The Epiphany on 6 January and The Baptism of Jesus celebrated this year on 9 January. These two feasts at the beginning of each year provide us with an opportunity to reflect on our life in God and how we might get closer to him. As with all things, sometimes we have to let go of some old ideas before we can step onwards.

I have a question for you. Where was it that the Wise Men visited Mary and Jesus? I recently came across the idea of the “Holy House” which replaces the stable at this time and thought that was rather odd but reading the passage in Matthew's Gospel that details the visit, the star stops above the house where Jesus and Mary are. They are in a house, not a stable. And where is this house? Herod sent the Wise Men to Bethlehem, but they “followed the star which they saw at its rising” and while I have always assumed that this was to Bethlehem, this isn't supported by the scripture.

Our familiarity of the story of Jesus' Baptism means that we risk glossing over some key details. In recent years, I have taken to using these narratives – in whichever Gospel – to highlight a key thing we can miss in all the busy-ness and striving for achievement that we learn from our society. Just after Jesus' baptism God calls from heaven and says to Jesus, “you are my Son the Beloved; with you I am well pleased”. But what was there for God to be pleased with? Jesus had no ministry yet, there had been no being whisked off into the dessert, no 40 days or temptations, no healings or resurrections, no teaching in the Synagogues. In fact, Jesus had not yet done anything other than to follow the lead that God had given Him.

And so, it is with us. We are beloved because we are children of God, he loves us because we exist. He loves us in the same way as he does all those who have gone before us and those who will come along long after we are gone. Unconditionally and it matters not how much we achieve, or we don't, nor does it matter if we interpret things in the same way as others or if we plough our own furrow, and this love is not even influenced by our ability to get along with our neighbours or not, though we are called to love them.

We are the beloved of God who, in his teaching and through those whom he has called to witness to that love, just wants us to be all that we can be where we are, using our gifts and abilities to their fullest extent for the benefit of all those around us.

We are learning all the time, the familiar looks different when we look with different eyes, or with other information. The memorable words that King George V quoted in his Christmas broadcast in 1939 comes from a poem written in 1908 entitled 'God Knows' by Minnie Louise Haskins, but the words we heard are only the opening stanza:

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown".
And he replied:
"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".
So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.
And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

So heart be still:
What need our little life
Our human life to know,
If God hath comprehension?
In all the dizzy strife
Of things both high and low,
God hideth His intention.

God knows. His will
Is best. The stretch of years
Which wind ahead, so dim
To our imperfect vision,
Are clear to God. Our fears
Are premature; In Him,
All time hath full provision.

Then rest: until
God moves to lift the veil
From our impatient eyes,
When, as the sweeter features
Of Life's stern face we hail,
Fair beyond all surmise
God's thought around His creatures
Our mind shall fill.

Poetry has a way of saying things we cannot find words for; it leads us to the deeper places of the heart and guides us into truth. And the truth in this poem is that we cannot know all that is to come (I doubt that we could cope with it even if we did know), and this is alright because we have our hand in the hand of the God who loves us, in the hand of the God who wants the very best for us and will lead us to it if we let Him. We may want to know our destination now but maybe God wants us to make the most of the journey he is taking us on to get there. The important things being that we trust in His guiding and travel together in the Love that we share.

Happy New Year

The Rev Colin Simpson

THE CHAPEL EAST COKER – 11.00AM SUNDAY AT EAST COKER HALL

We meet at East Coker Hall, 11.00am on Sunday mornings. We are always happy to welcome anyone to join us, even if just to see what goes on! Our services are very relaxed and fairly informal. We have visiting speakers, our own worship band, and a large number of children in the 'Kid's Church'.

If you would like to get in touch or would like prayer, please go to the contact page on our website where you will find our email address and the mobile numbers of our leadership team.

www.eastcokerchapel.com.

Village News

THE TRIANGLE

Once again, de Jager's mixed daffodils were planted in autumn, with Broadleigh Garden's dwarf varieties **Toto** and **Sailboat** at the front. The tulips left in after flowering should shoot once more in 2022. They have been augmented by: **Passionale** (lilac flamed with deep purple), **Pretty Princess** (deep pink, fragrant), **Dordogne** (claret-rose) and **Flaming Flag** (pink, flamed cerise). They were not planted until early December, after a cold spell, as these bulbs prefer cool soil.

Reliable hardy winter-flowering cyclamen add spots of colour here even in the harshest weather, amazing to see as they are so delicate-seeming and grow best from shallow planting.

Ipheion with its small star-shaped flowers and strap-like leaves provides edging. This perennial bulb, native to South Africa, forms clumps which are best left undisturbed for several years.

Throughout 2021, several bags of compost were spread to replenish soil being depleted by roots of the central tree.

Kathryn Sturtridge

THE VILLAGE CAFÉ

Happy New Year my lovelies!

The Café will be open on Wednesday 12 January at 10.00am, we can't wait to see you all .

We hope you have all had a joyful Christmas and a restful New Year

Café hours for January and February are as follows: Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10.00am until 4.00pm. Saturday, 9.00am until midday

Follow The Village Café on Facebook and Instagram, where we will post events, evening dining, nom nom pizza pod visit and the delicious alternative Indian evenings.

All our love

Kiet and Steve  

ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

At long last, we were able to hold an event, our Diva Lunch back in October. Although our numbers were severely restricted to keep everyone as safe as possible, it was a huge success and we made over £7,200 profit, money desperately needed by the Charity to keep our research grants going.

A third of the staff have been made redundant, and the difficult decision has been made to sell our Headquarters in Horsham and run the Charity from a small unit holding supplies etc., with most of the staff working from home in the future.

We are intending to start the local Cream Teas again in the summer and further details will be in the next newsletter. We will hopefully try and get the National Cream Teas going again in 2023.

Our Diva Lunch this year will be a much bigger event than normal as it is the 70th anniversary of the Charity, the 10th Diva Lunch and 40 years since we started a committee here in East Coker. It will be held on **14 October** again at The Haselbury Mill, and we have two lots of entertainment booked including an Abba Tribute band.

Further details will be available soon.

Jane Donnelly Tel: 01935 478409 Email: janedonnelly81@outlook.com

STAMPS FOR CLIC SARGENT

When the Village Café reopens, Kiet and Steve will 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.

THURSDAY BADMINTON

We are looking for new members to join our group on Thursday afternoons from 2.15pm to 3.15pm (with the possibility of extending the time if numbers increase) at East Coker Hall.

We welcome mixed ability and gender with a view for enjoyable exercise.

Anyone interested, please contact Joyce Pryor tel 862816

MOBILE LIBRARY

East Coker is Helyar Arms Visits on Tuesdays - every 4 weeks 11.50am to 12.10pm

5 January 22 February 22 March

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REMINDER - BST

British Summer Time starts at 2.00am on Sunday 27 March 2022 – clocks go forward 1 hour.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE

Please report suspicious behaviour or a crime so that we know of what is going on in an area, we will attend as appropriate to the situation, but reporting is still the part that you can play. We cannot stop a vehicle with potentially your village neighbour's shed contents inside unless you report it and we have the opportunity of catching the perpetrators and returning those items to the victim.

Yeovil Neighbourhood Policing Team

PC 3573 Poole and PCSO 7880 Hayne

Email jackie.poole@avonandsomerset.police.uk

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

If you are a Facebook user, our team has recently set up a local page called Yeovil Neighbourhood Policing which might be of interest and can be followed.

EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

Pavilion modernisation

East Coker Parish Council have now applied for planning permission for the modernisation and are awaiting the decision. If planning is granted, we will be looking to fundraise. Any fundraising ideas can be emailed to clerk@eastcokerparish.com and any suggestions would be gratefully received.

Wonder Walk, Sunday 10 October 2021

The wonder walk was a great success and raised £40 for Children in Need. Thank you to everyone who organised, helped and supported this event.

Bus shelter book swap

The book swap continues to be a great success. Thank you to Stan Shayler for keeping it looking so well organised and tidy. It is very much appreciated by the village.

Trees

Due to the overhead cables, the trees at the Sawmills have now been cut back and some removed. There will be a slight delay in replanting as there are no maples in stock, but we hope that this will be done after Christmas.

You will have noticed that the village looked festive with trees at the Triangle and also in the Paddock.

Councillor vacancy

Councillor Bridgford-Whittock has unfortunately had to stand down as Councillor and Chairperson, so we now have one vacancy. If you feel that you are able to offer a few hours a month to make important decisions, then please send a letter of interest to clerk@eastcokerparish.com.

Roads

Licences have now been granted for the erection of 3 Hamstone slabs with inlaid East Coker signs. These will be put up when the weather improves, hopefully towards early spring if not before.

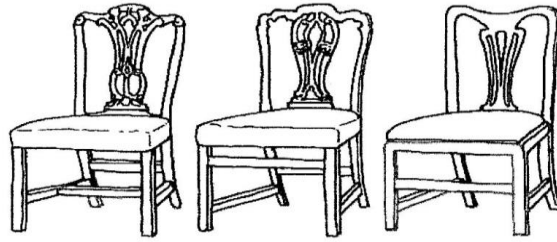
Potholes & blocked drains

If you spot any potholes or blocked drains around the village, these can be reported directly to SSDC via the Fix My Street App, which is very straightforward to use <https://www.fixmystreet.com> or report them to the Clerk, clerk@eastcokerparish.com

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations from Thursday 2 June – Sunday 5 June

We will be organising a programme of events around The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June. A Picnic in the Playing Field on **Sunday 5 June** will be the highlight of the weekend. So please make a note in your diary. More information to follow in the next newsletter. If anybody has any good ideas or would like to be involved, please contact clerk@eastcokerparish.com.

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NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **April 2022**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay at l.lindsay@eastcoker.com by **Thursday 24 March 2022** or sooner if possible.

PS: There is no quarterly diary in this issue.