

East Coker Society Newsletter



January 2023

Free Issue No 189

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East Coker Society News

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS

We hope you have enjoyed your festivities with your families and friends and can look forward to the New Year with the hope of good health and happiness.

We are so fortunate that East Coker offers a range of clubs and organisations for you to get involved with, so the New Year can be an opportunity to take up a new activity and get to know more people in our community.

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.

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **April 2023**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay at l.lindsay@eastcoker.com by **23 March 2023** or sooner if possible.

Village Clubs and Organisations

EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

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

Wednesday 1 February	Eat, Drink and be Merry in the 18th century by Mike Rendell, guests welcome £3.
Wednesday 1 March	"Removing Snobbery from Wine" – Ian Gibson
Wednesday 5 April	Tasting of Spanish wines – Mark Banham
Wednesday 3 May	Lawrence Cider with Montgomery cheese.

Cheers! See you at the bottom of the glass.

Sarah Rashley

Massage Therapy Studio in East Coker



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contact Sarah:

07583 039744

sarahnewdigate@gmail.com

www.sarahnewdigatmassage.com



EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

We ended 2022 on a festive note, with a demonstration by Myra Cox of seasonal flower arrangements, which were donated for the raffle; some very lucky members left with Christmas arrangements for their homes. Members also enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies. The November meeting was a joy, relaxing to one of David Moon's excellent photographic presentations set to music.

And so we move on into 2023, when we begin the year with a talk on low maintenance gardening – I wonder if there really is such a thing???? As always, a varied programme has been booked for the year:

Thursday 12 January Low Maintenance Gardening – Gold Club speaker. Tips on cutting back and freeing up time to relax and enjoy your outdoor spaces.

Thursday 9 February Roses – Carol Atkins. A fun, informative and interactive talk, with live plants and time for questions.

Thursday 3 March The Natural Beauty of Dorset – Colin Varndell. Based on the book of the same name, a presentation that takes the audience on a tour of Dorset's Area of outstanding Beauty.

Thursday 13 April An all-year round Garden – David and Pauline Wright.

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. The Propagator, a Free Newsletter containing Club news, notes of gardening events, tips, etc is distributed via email, with hard copies available at each meeting for those not on email. During the growing season, there is a produce stall stocked by members with plants and produce. Day trips are arranged to places of interest.

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 currently £20, with subs of £2 per meeting. Visitors £5.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, commencing at 7.30pm in East Coker Hall, Halves Lane, East Coker unless otherwise indicated. For further information, please contact Helen Styles 01935 862447. There is a page on the East Coker Hall website for the Gardening Club - if you have access to the web, please do go to <http://eastcokervillagehall.co.uk> and look at the Gardening Club page.

In the meantime, if you wish to speak to us, please phone me 01935 86244 or Stan Shayler 01935 420291

Helen

EAST COKER HALL - FILM NIGHTS 2023 – last Wednesday of each month

We are starting 2023 with a range of current films for you to see. The doors of the Hall are open from 7.00pm, teas and coffees are available, and the films start at 7.30pm. Tickets are £7 each. No booking is needed, and everyone is very welcome.

These are the dates to put into your 2023 diary:

Wednesday 25 January we are showing **'Fisherman's Friends: One and All'**. This follows the very popular and entertaining first film about the successful choir of Cornish fishermen. This time, there are new recruits joining the choir, and everyone is struggling with being famous. The film stars local Somerset man, James Purefoy and also stars Sam Swainsbury, along with a cast of fisherman singers.



Wednesday 22 February it's **'Mrs. Harris goes to Paris'**, a film version of Paul Gallico's book about a widowed cleaning lady who falls in love with a Dior dress and decides to have one just like it, so travels to Paris. The House of Dior is never the same afterwards. The film stars Lesley Manville, who was previously nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress, and Isabelle Huppert.

Save the dates: The films for **Wednesday 29 March and Wednesday 26 April** are to be decided. **We look forward to seeing you at all the film nights, which rely on your support to keep going.**

Thank you.

Gill

THURSDAY BADMINTON

A friendly group of both mixed abilities and gender welcome any new members, we meet each Thursday afternoon from 2.15pm – 3.15pm at East Coker Hall.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Joyce Pryor, tel 862816

EAST COKER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Having just enjoyed a very sociable Christmas lunch with fellow W.I members, I realised that it was time to give an update on forthcoming meetings for this valuable East Coker Newsletter.

Meeting at East Coker Hall at 7.30pm on the last Thursday of each month, except for special occasions, we try to find interesting speakers to both educate and amuse our members. For our January meeting, we have asked Tim Layton Hyslop to talk on 'Care, Tax and Toy Boys', a subject that will cause quite a bit of speculation. In February, the talk will be given by Brian Wright on 'The Dragons of Somerset'. As we have our AGM in March, we tend to make this a fun evening after the serious business with either an activity or game.

We also arrange Whist Evenings, open to anyone, on the third Thursday of the month in the Dampier Room. There will be prizes for the top scorer and for the top male and top female and the lowest scorers.


During the spring months, it is planned to repeat the popular Bingo Evening. The date is not yet set but posters will be displayed nearer the time.

We would be very pleased to welcome new members, especially those who have moved to the village either during or since the recent pandemic. For any enquiries, please contact our Secretary, Ruby Rollo on tel 475010.

Diary dates


Thursday 19 January	Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 26 January	Care, tax and toy boys	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 16 February	Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 23 February	Dragons of Somerset	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 16 March	Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 30 March	AGM & Social Evening	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 20 April	Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall

Joyce Pryor



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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.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH

Poppy Appeal 2022

On behalf of the branch, may I thank everyone who supported our 2022 Poppy Appeal. With your help, we raised £5,662. This compares favourably with previous years, even at a time when the trend for people to hold less cash seems to be on the increase. A great effort from our team of door-to-door collectors, local businesses and the congregation of St Michael's Church. A special mention must go to East Coker Primary School who raised £510 this year.

The money you raised will allow the Legion to continue to provide lifelong support to serving and ex-serving personnel and their families.

Thank you

Date for your diaries

Planning is already underway for our **Annual Cheese and Wine Evening on Friday 14 April at East Coker Hall**. Starting at the usual time of 7.30pm.

Chair East/West Coker Branch RBL.

David Giles, Chairman

ART CLASSES

WITH ARTIST & LECTURER
ELEANOR FARR MA

Learn to draw & paint

Beginners and intermediates welcome.

We'll work through all the fundamentals of drawing and painting together. You'll learn techniques to inspire you and create beautiful artworks, whilst experimenting with new materials.

All in fun and friendship

TUESDAY 13:15-15:15

WEDNESDAY 13:30 - 15:30 OR

SATURDAY 10:00 - 12:00

£175 FOR A 10 WEEK COURSE

EAST COKER VILLAGE HALL

Book early to avoid disappointment. Places limited.
To book your place please contact Ellie Farr 07745216811 or at
enquiries@eleanorfarr.gallery



EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

Forthcoming meetings at the Village Café, East Coker - 7.30pm start.

What is the East Coker Poetry Group? What do we do?

The group consists of a healthy mix of members, some who write poetry and some who don't. Some are more academic, while others just enjoy the magic of the English language and just come to listen. Over the years, we have had many excellent visiting poets, speakers and performers who have come to our group to present a meeting. Not only speakers that come externally, but we also have member-led meetings on varied poetic themes such as 'Poetry and Politics' or about classical poets such as Thomas Hardy.

Our Open evenings invite members to read established poets as well as self-penned poetry. The group fosters the feeling of a very inclusive group and welcomes poets of all abilities.

We meet at the Village Café, usually on the last Tuesday of the month. Meetings start at 7.30pm and finish around 9.00pm. There is no membership fee, only an inquiring interest in the subject.

Forthcoming meetings

Tuesday 31 January Local poets Anna Webb and Cath Kansara will give short readings, followed after the break by an open session where anyone can come and read a poem they have written or read. There is no theme, just any poem that you feel will interest the group. Or just come and listen and have a drink or cake and enjoy the poetry.

Tuesday 28 February We will look into the world of the Poetry Competition, featuring our local international competition, 'The Yeovil Prize' including readings of some of the winning poems from previous years.

Tuesday 28 March Poet Rosie Jackson is coming to East Coker. The first half of the meeting will be one of our popular 'Audio Visual' presentations featuring poems inspired by the work of Artist Stanley Spencer, followed after the break by a reading from Rosie's latest poetry collection, 'Light makes it Easy'.

Best wishes to all in the East Coker Poetry Group.

David Cloke

Website www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk email info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk



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Young People

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

The Scouts had a busy November with County Challenge at Huish Woods, a District Hike based around Wells, air rifle shooting at Westlands and the Remembrance Parade. Our team in the County Challenge worked well together across various team building tasks spread over 5 hours. The District Hike covered 8 miles with broad sunshine, fog and rain – coats on, coats off.



Each section ended the term with Christmas activities – the Cubs went off to the pantomime at The Octagon, the Beavers decorated biscuits, the Scouts had a Nerf Evening and the Explorers made gingerbread houses.

The Beavers are starting 2023 with the Health & Fitness badge followed by Space activities. The Cubs will be learning about Chinese New Year, before moving on to the Digital Maker activity badge and a bingo night. The Scouts are working on Creative, World and Skills Challenge badge activities – making a scouting image out of tent pegs and rope to learning about disabilities.

Our Stag Explorer Scout Unit (14 – 18-year-olds) has an active programme now and is planning ahead to its first full year of activities.

Our three scouts, Faye, Charlie, and Emily, who have been selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea next year, continue with their fund-raising events to raise £4,150 each. The Bonus WSJ Village Quiz on Saturday 12 November went extremely well with the Green Fingers coming out on top; we hope they have enjoyed their cans of SPAM (a Korean favourite). Many thanks to everyone who came along to support them and to the EC Flower Show for their kind donation.

Faye, Charlie, and Emily continue with their preparation weekends where they are learning the skills for their trip. At the last weekend, all the parents were treated to a roast dinner before a presentation of the latest WSJ updates.

Faye and Charlie are working towards their Young Leader Award. Their last training modules are planned for March, April and July. Erin will be beginning her training this month.

We paraded our flags at the Annual Remembrance Parade at the church. The Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, and Explorers all worked together to make a soldier and wreath covered in poppies.

Scout Jumble Sale: Saturday 25 February 2.00pm

For those that have been waiting and holding on to their 'stuff', we now have a date for the Scout Jumble Sale. This will be held at East Coker Hall on Saturday 25 February. Doors open at 2.00pm; with a 50p entry (children free).

If you have any donations of jumble, please bring them to the Village Hall between 9.00am & 12.00pm on the day.

Thank you for all your support.

David Webber, Group Scout Leader
eastcokerscouts@gmail.com

17th ANNUAL EAST COKER VILLAGE QUIZ

It's quiz time again, and as you may know, the date for this year's Annual Village Quiz is Saturday 25 March starting at 7.30pm (arrival from 7.00pm). We are looking forward to seeing you all again and welcoming any new teams who would like to take part. Just as a reminder, teams can be up to 6 quizzers strong.

The process for entering a Team is as follows

1. Team Captains: please email eastcokerscouts@gmail.com by the end of Saturday 25 February if you wish to enter a team. We will also be sending emails directly to the previous teams we have on our list to see if you wish to enter this year.
2. On Sunday 26 February, we will let you know if you have a spot. If we have too many entries, we will draw names out of a hat. Any extra teams will go on the waiting list, and we will let you know if anyone drops out.
3. For those teams that have a place, payment and food choices need to be returned to us by Saturday 11 March.

Full quiz details, including food choices and payment methods, will be sent out with your confirmation. So, start revising and we look forward to seeing everyone on the night – The Cockerel Trophy awaits. Please email if you have any questions.

The Quiz Gopher eastcokerscouts@gmail.com

EAST COKER PLAYGROUP (follow us on Facebook: East Coker Preschool)

Happy New Year to everyone!

Parents and carers joined us to watch the children perform their favourite seasonal songs in December. The singing and dancing continued after the parents and carers left and the end of term party began. The holiday season is well and truly behind us, and we look forward to finding the first signs of spring on our walks around the village. Our tyre planters in the garden already have daffodil flower buds!

Thank you for some wonderful fundraising in the Autumn Term. The Winter Fair raised £795, Dawn Handy's Mosaic Workshop raised £250, and the Givle Short Mat Bowls Club kindly donated £218 from their Christmas Game. You can fundraise for the East Coker Preschool by using Easy Fundraising <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>. If you do online shopping, sign up, please choose East Coker

Preschool as your cause, download the EasyFundraising app to your smartphone or download the browser extension and when you shop online check if going to a company website via EasyFundraising will generate a donation to our Preschool when you spend. A lot of little pennies add up.

All support is gratefully received, the Playgroup is a charity, and all fundraising is essential. Fundraising will enable the Playgroup to maintain and replace the resources that support the children's learning and development. Thanks to the fundraising, we are already planning what we will plant in our vegetable garden after the worn out/broken original one has been replaced.

In 2023, the Playgroup will have been at the Pavilion site for 50 years! Celebrations are in the planning; more information in the next East Coker Society Newsletter and on our Facebook: East Coker Preschool.

Children can join us from the age of 2 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	8.00-9.00	12.00-1.00	3.00-4.00
Tuesday	8.00-9.00	12.00-1.00	3.00-4.00
Wednesday	8.00-9.00	12.00-1.00	3.00-4.00
Thursday	8.00-9.00	12.00-1.00	3.00-4.00
Friday	8.00-9.00	12.00-1.00	3.00-4.00

Children staying for lunch need to bring a packed lunch.

Baby and Toddler Session @ East Coker Playgroup, Thursday 9.30am-11.00am £1.50/family.

We have a playroom full of resources and 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 Coker Preschool.

For more information and to register your child/children for East Coker Playgroup, please contact us 07503 751133 or email office.ecplaygroup@gmail.com.

To find out more information, please visit our **Facebook page East Coker Preschool**.

For more information and to register your child/children for East Coker Playgroup, please contact us, tel 07503 751133 or email office.ecplaygroup@gmail.com.

EAST COKER PRIMARY SCHOOL



Respect, Determination & Courage, Compassion & Collaboration, Independence & Creativity

Once again, we have had a very busy term with the return of many of our pre-covid activities which has been an absolute joy. In September, we held our 'Meet The Teacher' evening, and we also held a Saturday Open Morning for parents looking for schools in September 2023. It was really well attended. We have also had phonics workshops and end of year events for parents.

We have made several improvements to our school site, and this will be ongoing this year. We have had wall art installed, new outdoor seating and the removal of several old pieces of equipment. We are looking forward to the installation of our new outdoor furniture later this year along with improvements to our playground activities and library learning area – it is all go for our new site manager! In addition to this, we have made several improvements to our IT provision.

This term, the whole school theme has been 'Deadly Planet'. The infants have been learning about the Great Fire of London as part of their History and learned lots from our special visitor from the museum service. In Art, they have been looking at Kandinsky, learning a lot about mark making, painting and colour mixing!

In History, the junior children have been learning about why we were invaded by the Romans, Anglo-Saxons and Vikings and what legacy they left behind. They have also been learning about Mountains,

Volcanoes, Earthquakes and Extreme Weather. In Art and Design, they have been looking at The Great Wave, while in Design and Technology there has been a lot of sewing and a lot of volunteer adults supporting! Our Year 6 children have also had their residential at Great Wood, which is always a lovely week, despite the weather.

During the last part of the autumn term, the school held a very special Polar Express Day, and we were very fortunate to have a visit from the elf via a Wildcat helicopter courtesy of the RNAS Yeovilton. We also held our Christmas events for parents which included our Infant Nativity and Junior Carol Service in the church. It was a really lovely way to end the term.

The PTFA have also been exceptionally busy supporting the school and putting on events for our community. These have included Bingo, Santa's Grotto and many additional activities for the children, as well as supporting school events for parents such as our Saturday Open Morning. They make huge contributions to the life of the school, and the money they raise greatly improves our children's opportunities and experiences.

This term, we welcome our new Deputy Head, Lewis Bacon who has joined the school in Year 5/6. He has come from across the border (Dorset) and is settling in well to our East Coker ways.

The children's topic for Spring is 'Inventors', and they will be making toys, cooking and learning about Van Gogh and William Morris in art. Our Year 5 pupils will go on their local residential in March which is new for the school.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all our volunteers who come in and support the children, from the PTFA to our local volunteers. We have volunteers who have helped with sewing, reading with children, changing library books, working with library ambassadors and general helping out in class. It is always greatly appreciated so thank you once again. If you are interested, please do contact the school.

We also have a vacancy for a Clerk to the Governors if anyone is interested in an admin role which includes attending 6 meetings a year, taking minutes and preparing agendas and sending out documents. Please do have a look on our school website if you are interested.

Jane Hesketh-Williams, Head Teacher

The Churches

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

The last quarter of the year brings many special Services. This year we shared our Harvest Thanksgiving & lunch with West Coker.

All Souls' Day was a time when we lit candles and remembered our departed loved ones. Remembrance Sunday always brings many to St Michael's and this year was no exception, with a procession of Scouts, Guides and Brownies carrying their banners. Wreaths were laid by the War Memorial, and it is always a poignant moment when the names of the Village casualties of two World Wars are read out. All was beautifully arranged by the British Legion, with refreshments following the Service, and a substantial collection was raised for that cause.

It was with much sadness that we heard of the death of Geoff Doye who had been unwell for some time. He had been a Reader at St Michael's for over forty years and a great support to past Vicars.

Advent brought preparations for Christmas a special time of Reflection and Contemplation. We enjoyed our Carol Service, when the enlarged Benefice Choir enriched our worship, and Nine Special Lessons were read by representatives of the Church and the Village Community. Glorious flower arrangements, a fine decorated Christmas Tree and the figures of our Crib Scene beautified the interior.

A special Family Communion Service was held on Christmas Morning when Father Colin encouraged the young to bring their noisy toys! It is good to hear the repaired Church bells ringing again, the first occasion being for a lovely winter Wedding.

We are keen to recruit more ringers, novice or skilled. It is a social activity! Please contact the Captain of Bells, Lesley Lindsay, tel 01935 862868.

We look forward to 2023 and Celebrations of the Coronation of King Charles the Third.

We are also looking for a Benefice Young Families Worker, and suitable applicants are encouraged to apply to the Rev'd Colin Simpson, email rectorcokerridge@gmail.com, tel 01935 862429, The Rectory, 7 Cedar Fields, West Coker, Somerset, BA22 9DB www.CokerRidge.org.uk

The Coker Ridge Benefice Facebook. Office hours, Wednesday, and Friday, 10.00am-1.00pm.

Barbara Hampshire, email officecokerridge@gmail.com. Office hours Wednesday and Friday, 10.00am-1.30pm, tel 01935 864574.

Monica Whipp, email m.whipp278@btinternet.com tel 01935 862834.

To receive the weekly Pew sheet, please email christine.vince2@btinternet.com or pick up a copy in the Church.

THE CHAPEL 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 informal and always followed by tea and coffee. We have a variety of speakers, our own worship band and a large number of children of all ages in the 'Kids Church'.

Café Church is held on the first Sunday of each month; fresh coffee, croissants, and bacon rolls are provided, and we have an even more informal time.


On Tuesday mornings in term-time, the Toddler Group runs from 10.30am – 12.00pm. This is aimed at mums, dads, grandparents, and child carers and incorporates a café area as well as plenty of play space and equipment.

Contact us on 863735 or via our website www.eastcokerchapel.com where you will find our email address and the mobile numbers of our leadership team and more information about our church.

Joe Dunning


IYENGAR YOGA

At East Coker Village Hall
With certified teacher Lisa Bartlett



Wednesdays at 10am (For those with some experience of yoga)
Fridays at 10am (suitable for all, beginners welcome)

Iyengar Yoga, a traditional system of yoga, is named after BKS Iyengar who is noted for bringing yoga to the West in the 1960s. Through his innovation of yoga props, the poses are accessible to all regardless of age, level of fitness or ability and great emphasis is placed on good alignment in the poses.



Come and join my friendly classes to experience the many benefits of yoga!

Find me on **Facebook:**
"Iyengar Yoga with Lisa Bartlett"
Or Email: lisabartlett@mac.com Phone: 07837 258495

Classes also held in West Coker (including Gentle Yoga) and Yetminster

MOBILE LIBRARY

The Mobile Library visits East Coker on Tuesdays every 4 weeks from 11.50am – 12.10pm outside The Helyar Arms. There is a wide selection of books – fiction, non-fiction, large print, DVDs and audio books for adults and children. You can borrow up to 20 items. The stock is regularly refreshed, and you can order books there or online.

To use the service, you must be a member of Somerset Libraries, so remember to bring your membership card. You can join by filling in a membership form with proof of your name and current address, for example., Utility Bill or a driving licence. Do use this valuable service.

The next visits are **10 January** **7 February** **7 March** **4 April**

For information about this service, contact Somerset Direct, tel 0300 1232224 or visit www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries

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GOOSE SLADE FARM SHOP

Wishing all our customers a happy and healthy new year.

This year, the Dunning family celebrate 100 years of farming in East Coker and the 20th Anniversary of the Farm Shop.

As always, our fresh meat counter is stocked with our own home-grown beef, lamb, pork, and goose products.

The free-range chicken and duck are from Cracknell's poultry at Langport.

Our butchers are always available and more than happy to help with off counter meat cuts, special orders, and cooking advice, please ask if you need assistance.

We also stock everything you would expect to find in a farm shop

We look forward to serving you soon.

Shop opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10.00am – 5.00pm. www.thegoosefarm.com tel 01935 863735.

Liz & Phil

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The Property Ombudsman

THE EAST COKER ACTION GROUP

The East Coker Action Group was formed in 1986 by villagers who made voluntary donations in order to buy the field known as Pincushion Corner opposite Goose Slade Farm. At the time, the purchase was to avoid this green field site being developed.

Having achieved this aim, the field has been leased to local farmers for grazing on 2-year terms up to the present time and has preserved the rural character of the immediate area.

However, the Group has now achieved support to convert the field into a small woodland area of around 600 mixed tree species and shrubs. This is to improve the Environment, and to support the late Queen's Jubilee Green Canopy scheme.

Subsequently, the Group has liaised with the Woodland Trust and East Coker Parish Council to achieve this goal. The Group has been very grateful to both organisations for their strong support in this regard. The scheme will hopefully commence shortly with a mixture of indigenous tree and shrub species, with advice from the Woodland Trust.

This should in due course be not only an asset environmentally to East Coker (albeit without public access, due to insurance issues), but also as a suitable tribute to our late beloved monarch, Queen Elizabeth II.

R Mead, Chairman, pp East Coker Action Group

EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

Help is at hand in these desperate times.

With the cost-of-living spiralling at an alarming rate, we are all aware that these are desperate times for many people, some of whom are having to choose between eating and heating. Can we remind everybody that there is a food bank at the Village Café. So, if you wish to donate food or are in need, please pay it a visit. It is situated discreetly outside the café.

Staying warm is also an issue for many but there are various warm hubs which will welcome you:

Church warm hubs in Yeovil

Mondays, 9.00am – 3.00pm, Yeovil Baptist, Petters Way)

Tuesdays, 10.00am – 3.00pm, Yeovil Methodist at The Quedam

Thursdays, 9.00am – 1.00pm, Yeovil Baptist, Petters Way

Fridays, 10.00am – 12pm, Yeovil Methodist at The Quedam)

Other warm hubs in Yeovil

- Westfield Warm hub – Monday-Thursday 9.30am-3.00pm, and food served Monday to Wednesday, 12.00pm-2.00pm
- Yeovil Library, King George Street, Yeovil
- The Huddle, 18 Vicarage Walk, Yeovil

Hubs in Crewkerne, Chard, South Petherton

- Chard Library, Holyrood Lace Mill, Holyrood Street, Chard
- Crewkerne Library, Falkland Square, Crewkerne
- South Petherton Library, St James' Corner, South Petherton

Talking Cafés in the local area

- Chard, Tuesday - Ariel Healthcare, Fore Street: 1st Tuesday of the month, 10.00am - 12.00pm
- Chard, Ariel Healthcare - St Mary's: 2nd Tuesday of the month, 10.00am - 12.00pm
- Chard, Springmead Surgery - 3rd Tuesday of the month, 10.00am - 12.00pm
- Yeovil District Hospital - every other Tuesday from 1 November, 2.00pm – 4.00pm
- Wednesday: Chard - The Guildhall - Every week, 10.00am – 12.00pm
- Thursday: Yeovil - St Peter's Community Centre - Every other week.

More information can be found on the East Coker Website <https://eastcokerparish.com/>

Rural crime

You will all probably be aware that there have been a disturbingly high number of sheep attacks in the village. One of which ending in 48 fatalities. It is vital for all rural crimes, whether theft or livestock worrying, to be reported to the Police. It is vital that all rural crimes get reported. They can be reported anonymously by calling 0800 555 111 or online at <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/>.

More links and information can be found on our website, <https://eastcokerparish.com/rural-affairs/>.

Parish Council

The Parish Council would like to welcome new Councillor Steve Hall who joined the team in December and very much look forward to working with him in 2023.

Councillor vacancies

We do still have two Councillor vacancies. If you feel that you could spare a few hours each month, please contact the clerk Jude on Clerk@eastcokerparish.com

Farewell & thanks – Sandra Snelling

We said a sad farewell to our wonderful Councillor Sandra Snelling who stood down in December. Sandra has contributed so much to the village whilst being a Councillor, from the Neighbourhood Plan, Scarecrow Competitions, VE day Celebrations, Jubilee Party's, not to mention the Coker Corona. We thank her for her unwavering dedication and enthusiasm. She will be greatly missed.

Village signage

We know it has taken longer than anticipated, but they are now almost complete, and we are hopeful that the new village stones will be in situ sometime in the spring if not before, so keep a look out.

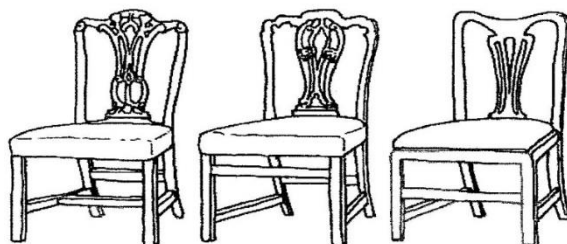
Speed limits

Sadly, people are still speeding through our village. If anyone would like to join a team to do speed watch, we are looking for volunteers, please email your details to clerk@eastcokerparish.com

Village Ranger

Our ranger, Karen, visits the village every Tuesday. Please contact Cllr B. Sugg, 07907 621106 (no calls after 5.00pm or at the weekend please) if you see any jobs which need her attention.

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NOTE: THE QUARTERLY VILLAGE DIARY APPEARS ON THE NEXT PAGE.

Tues 10 Jan	Mobile Library	11.50am – 12.10pm	The Helyar Arms
Thurs 12 Jan	Gardening Club – Lawn Maintenance	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 19 Jan	WI – Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 25 Jan	Film Night – ‘Fisherman’s Friends’	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 26 Jan	WI – Care, Tax, & Toyboys	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 31 Jan	Poetry Group – Local Poets	7.30pm	The Village Café
Wed 1 Feb	Wine Circle – Eat Drink & be Merry	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 7 Feb	Mobile Library	11.50am – 12.10pm	The Helyar Arms
Thurs 9 Feb	Gardening Club - Roses	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 16 Feb	WI – Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 22 Feb	Film Night – Mrs Harris goes to Paris	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 23 Feb	WI – Dragons of Somerset	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 25 Feb	The Scouts - Jumble Sale	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 28 Feb	Poetry Group – Competition	7.30pm	The Village Café
Wed 1 March	Wine Circle – Removing snobbery from wine	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 3 March	Gardening Club – Colin Varndell	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 7 March	Mobile Library	11.50am – 12.10pm	The Helyar Arms
Thurs 16 March	WI – Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 25 March	The Scouts – 17 th Annual Village Quiz	7.00pm - 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 28 March	Poetry Group – Poet Rosie Jackson	7.30pm	The Village Café
Wed 29 Mar	Film Night - TBC		
Thurs 30 March	WI – AGM	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 4 April	Mobile Library	11.50am – 12.10pm	The Helyar Arms
Wed 5 April	Wine Circle – Tasting of Spanish Wines	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 13 April	Gardening Club – An all-year round Garden	7.7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 14 April	Cheese & Wine Evening	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Saturdays	Art Classes, see page 5	1.15pm - 3.15pm 1.30pm – 3.30pm 10.00am – 12.00pm	East Coker Hall