

East Coker Society Newsletter



July 2009

Free Issue No 135

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| Secretary: Sarah Owen | 862218 | |
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East Coker Society News

DISTRIBUTION OF THE NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

At the Society's recent AGM the current extremely low number of residents who opt to receive the Newsletter by this means was discussed and the Committee felt it opportune to ask again for those villagers with computers to advise Lesley Lindsay of their e-mail address in order that the considerable cost of printing hard copies can be substantially reduced. It will also ease the occasional difficulties over manual distribution which arises through illness and holidays etc.

Roughly we have 800 households in the village yet only 149 have taken up the e-mail option. In asking for villagers co-operation it is stressed

- a) Individuals e-mail addresses are secure and will not be disclosed to any other party.
- b) All villagers who wish to continue to receive hard copies of the Newsletter can continue to enjoy this option.
- c) Please remember many e-mail recipients do not print the whole document but only the pages that interest them, particularly the all important calendar of events.

COFFEE MORNING

We would like to thank everyone who came to the coffee morning in April at the Helyar Arms. We raised £352 which will help with the Newsletter printing costs. A big thank you to the Helyar Arms and their staff for all their help.

A NEW 'MUST-HAVE' ITEM!

The new East Coker Bag is a '**must-have**' item if you live in East Coker! The cotton shopper is available with either long or short handles, and has the East Coker Cockerel on one side. Environmentally friendly, and good for the 'green' consumer! Available from The Store, East Coker, or Sarah Owen 862218

VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY 2009

The 2009 Diary is now at The Store, East Coker, and can be found at the back of the shop on the bottom shelf near the stationery. **Please could village organisations put their forthcoming events in the Diary to avoid the dates clashing.** Thank you.

Village Clubs and Organisations

THE COKER 400 CLUB

If anyone would like to join the 400 Club the annual subs are £20 (payable quarterly by Banker Order), please contact Mike Weston 862472, Gloria Mead 862384, Mary Ashley 862263 or Arthur Rees 862828.

EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Branch held their Annual Cheese & Wine Evening on Friday 17 April at East Coker Village Hall. A total of £266.00 was raised for Legion Funds. We were lucky to have three excellent speakers from the RAF, Somerset Legion House (SLH) and Dunkirk Memorial Home (DMH). Cheques for £350.00 were presented to SLH and DMH enabling them to continue their work, in providing breaks and respite care.

Certificates were awarded by the County Chairman to the poppy collectors for 10 years service to Alison Charles and Roy and Joy Hodder. A 25-year Merit Badge was presented to Mrs Pippa Bowditch representing her late father Alan Cornelius. Special Mention Certificates were given to The White Post Garage, Barn Club, Key Stores and Post Office where static boxes have been located for the past 10 years. Thank you also to the shops and post offices within our branch area, which support us yearly, by having a static box. Are you willing to be a collector? Please contact our organiser Mrs Sue Hounsell 01308-424702. The final presentation of the evening was a Certificate of Appreciation to Molly Betty a modest lady who has worked quietly behind the scenes at all our events over the past 20 years. Thank you Molly!

The Committee would like to thank all members and friends who not only attended but also contributed to the raffle and food. The funds raised during the evening help us to continue the work of the Legion for ex-service personnel and their dependants locally and throughout the country.

Do you know of any ex-serving personnel or dependants, who need a little financial support to get them over a crisis? The Legion will also provide assistance in obtaining pensions, mobility aids, grants etc. – we here to help. If we do not know the answer, we will find somebody who does.

Please contact me or any member of the committee. Dates for the diary – Saturday 11 July, East Coker Fete at Vicarage – The Legion Gazebo will be up. Please call in and have a chat. Friday 31 July, Coffee Morning at The Helyar Arms – 10.00am – 12 noon. The Branch will be hosting the event. Raffle prizes would be most welcome.

Chairman: David Holland 852782 Secretary: Marilyn Smith 863944

EAST COKER FLOWER SHOW & WINE FESTIVAL

This will be held at East Coker Hall on Saturday 15 August 2009. Schedules are available from the East Coker Village Store. Please try and have a go.

Doors will be open to exhibitors between 8.30am and 11.00am (wine by 10.00am). Doors open to the public at 2.00pm for everyone to see a wonderful display.

Good Luck everyone



Live comfortably in your body

Receiving massage regularly will help to relax your whole body and can ease and/or heal certain ailments, such as joint and muscle stiffness/pain, frozen shoulder, backache & sciatica, posture & mobility issues, headaches & migraines, high blood pressure, poor circulation & fluid retention, insomnia/fatigue and other stress related problems. It will also contribute to your general sense of well being and aliveness and can help to release emotions held deeply in the body, relieving anxiety and depression.

I am a qualified massage practitioner trained at the Bristol College of Massage and Bodywork and a member of the Massage Training Institute. I live and work in East Coker. My treatments incorporate a wide range of techniques which will be adapted to your needs at the time. You can expect to be treated with sensitivity and respect at all times in a peaceful environment.

To have an informal chat and/or book an appointment call Rosie on 01935 862767 or 07733 121819. Local home visits can be arranged if necessary.

EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

The Gardening Club members, guests and visitors enjoyed yet another three months of a varied programme, commencing in April with a talk by Marion Emery on 'Victorian Garden Design', in which she gave an overview of the influential garden designers during the period, the plant hunters and the effects of the Industrial Revolution on making some of the great gardens. In May, we had our open evening for charity, when Anne Swithinbank gave her talk entitled 'MY DEVON GARDEN'. It was a great success. The net proceeds came to £630, which has been divided equally between Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance and the East Coker Pavilion Fund. Thank you to everyone who attended and brought friends. An enormous amount of work goes into our 'open evenings', and the support shown by the Club members and the residents of East Coker is very much appreciated. In June, Nigel Palmer of 'Owls R Us' gave a very informative talk on owls and falcons. He brought with him a little owl, a barn owl, tawny owl, two falcons, and a baby European Eagle Owl by the name of Teasel, who was most entertaining (he took quite a liking to Andy Adams' socks and shoes!), and finally settled down on a chair for an evening snooze. The Club Holiday to West Sussex in May was a great success. Over a four day period, we visited *Arundel Castle*, *Wakehurst Place* (home to the Millennium Seed Bank), *Borde Hill*, *Sheffield Park*, *Leonardslee Gardens*, and *Nymans*. An enjoyable 1½ hours were spent riding on a steam train along The Bluebell Railway through some lovely countryside; the woodland floors were covered with bluebells. The weather was good, the gardens wonderful, accommodation, food and company good.

So on to the next four months, during which members will enjoy various talks and visits to places of interest.

| | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 9 July | 'Wild Flowers to and from the Garden' | Speaker C Cornell |
| 13 August | 'Hands on Gardening' | Speaker Freda Brown |
| 10 September | Talk on Hestercombe Gardens | |
| 17 September | Visit to Hestercombe Gardens | |
| 8 October | 'The Healing Garden' | Speakers G and H Haig |

Monthly meetings are held in the East Coker Village Hall on the second Thursday of the month, commencing at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome. For further information, please contact Catherine Denney, Honorary Secretary (862294), or Stan Shayler, Honorary Treasurer (420291).

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EAST COKER FLOWER CLUB – A day out in Salisbury

We are organizing a trip to Michael Bowyer's Flower Day on Wednesday 16 September. Michael Bowyer is a national and international judge as well as a national flower demonstrator

A coach will be leaving East Coker in the morning to arrive at 10.30am for coffee at The Old House, followed by a tour of the gardens of nearby Heale House before returning for lunch at 1.00pm. Michael Bowyer will then give a flower demonstration and after a cup of tea there will be a visit to the Flower Cellar where all sorts of flower arranging goods can be bought. The cost is £17 per head plus an amount for the coach.

If you would like to join us, please telephone the numbers below by Tuesday 28 July.

Angela McClure 863183 Lesley Lindsay 862868

EAST COKER CRICKET CLUB

East Coker Cricket Club held its first ever Youth cricket match in June when Nick White's Westland Under 12s played an East Coker XI at Long Furlong Lane

The Club have a development plan and we aim to start a Youth section in a couple of year's time. This was a great opportunity to demonstrate Youth cricket at East Coker, to test the popularity and to emulate the success of the East Coker Cockerels Football Club over the past few years. We had 22 smiling faces at the start of the session and 22 at the end and the most popular question on the day was 'when are we playing the next match!'

Also in June, ECCC played host to a Twenty20 tournament featuring 4 matches in one day. Teams from Chetnole, Thornford, Powerstock and East Coker battled it out for 'blitz-cricket' supremacy. East Coker Cobras played a very close opening match against Thornford Tigers which went down to the wire but a dazzling battling display from Andy Quinton saw the host's home and into the Final against Chetnole Cougars. The Final match was more of a stroll for East Coker as they easily won to become overall tournament winners once again.

East Coker Skipper Adam Young proudly collected the trophy from PC Chairman Stan Turner.

For more information on the Club including a list of fixtures, please visit our website at www.eccricket.org.uk. Martin Kearvell 413979

EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

South Magazine – 25 August 2009 – 7:30pm – The Helyar Arms

South Poetry Magazine was established in 1990, to promote poetry from, for and about, the southern counties of England. Since then its scope has widened to include poet-contributors from all over the world, but it continues to be edited and run from the south. Regular contributors to **South** are *Tim Harris*, from the **South** Management Team, and *Stella Davis*, who now lives in locally. They will read a selection of their work, and hope to find among the East Coker audience, some new contributors to the magazine.

Scottish and Welsh Poetry – 29 September 2009 – 7:30pm – The Helyar Arms

Here is an evening of Scottish and Welsh Poetry to redress any charge of bias following our 'England' evening in April. Jean Caunter leads a group of our members to put together this 'themed' event.

Contact details – David Cloke 862623 or our website www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk

EAST COKER PLAYERS

For the last two or three years we have not had enough members to be able to produce plays or pantomimes. We have appealed for new members to help in all capacities but there has been no response at all from the village. If there are not a sufficient number of new members at a special meeting on Tuesday 8 September at 7.30pm, in the Dampier Room, we shall have no other option but to close and sell all our assets, e.g. costumes, scenery, fittings etc. If this is the case a valuable asset to the village will be lost.

For those who are new to the village, the Players evolved from a group at the Jubilee Fund-raising, in the old village hall, to start to raise money for the new village hall. Lots of hilarity has occurred over the years beside the hard work and we have raised money for various charities.

We still have a few willing members, but we need **YOU!** Any enquiries to Nora White 477897

EAST COKER KEEP FIT

The East Coker Keep Fit group meet in the East Coker Village Hall on Tuesdays at 6.30pm for Exercise, Movement and Dance combined to give a whole body and mind workout. From warm-up; stretching; cardiac workout; with scarves, hoops, clubs and balls, all at your own pace; specially designed by a highly qualified teacher. If you would like to join us, please contact Mary Ashley on 862263.

As a group we have for many years organised two Sunday Lunches a year, the proceeds from these going to local charities. The money raised during the last three years was donated as follows

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance £3,000 | St Margaret's Hospice £2,000 |
| Motor Neurone Disease £1,000 | Helyar Almshouse £1000 |

Young People

1ST WEST COKER RAINBOWS

Thursdays 5.45pm – 7.00pm Scout and Guide Headquarters, Halves Lane, West Coker 5 – 7 years old

Rainbows is lots of fun. We make things, play games, go on outings/trips, have parties and are kind and helpful.

If you would like to join us, please ring Jane LeFeuvre (Moonshine) on 01935 862774

EAST COKER PLAYGROUP

East Coker Playgroup is progressing at a fast pace through the Summer Term. This term is always full of things to do. So far we have been den building, had photos taken, and thoroughly enjoyed the outside play opportunities the setting offers. Still to look forward to is the Sports Day, school visits for the children starting school in September and days out at the Sea Life Centre, plus lots of playing. At the end of term the group wave goodbye to the children going to school in September and we look forward to saying hello to the returning children and new starters.

During the summer holidays the group plan to open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings, subject to demand, from 9.00am to 12 noon. This will be for 5 weeks starting the 21 July to the 20 August. Please contact Kay Strobe on the number below for further information and a booking form.

The wealth of experience of our fully qualified staff offers quality childcare and education through play, exploring the wider environment and local community with project-based activities. Ofsted have consistently given the group excellent reports and commended us for the interaction and encouragement between staff and children, partnership with parents, teaching, management and the emphasis on fun.

Children can join us from the age of 2½ and Nursery Education Funding is available in the funding period after the third birthday. We are open during term time every weekday morning, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons and offer optional lunch cover for children who like to bring a packed lunch.

For more information and to put your child/children on the waiting-list please contact Kay Strobe on 07798 812540 or after 6.00pm on 872126.

EAST COKER SCHOOL

The Summer Fair was again very successful; a really enjoyable event when we see a lot of old friends and former pupils. The money raised was an increase on last year and will go towards the costs of an all-weather play area and shelter for the younger children.

The school has recently achieved both Healthy School Status and Activemark status, reflecting the emphasis which the school places on encouraging healthy lifestyles and physical activity.

We are holding a Music Day when the children have the chance to play, sing and dance to show off their musical skills. This follows a recent Singing Day when a visiting vocal teacher worked with all the classes.

Sports days and leavers events are fast approaching and we have already started welcoming the children who will be joining us in September as 4 year-olds.

We are holding a public meeting on Thursday 2 July at 7 00pm to discuss the issue of traffic congestion and safety at the beginning and end of the school day.

End of term for children is Friday 17 July and the next school year begins Thursday 3 September.

Richard Powell, Head Teacher

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

Newspaper Collections: Sat 25 July Sat 29 August Sat 26 September

Please bring all your old newspapers to Honeysuckle Cottage (outside the School) by 10.30am. This is an excellent way of supporting us and raises funds for equipment

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LUFTON COLLEGE

Lufton College of FE is a member of The National Mencap College. We have set up the Tea Room in East Coker to provide our students taking a Hospitality and Catering course at college, the opportunity to work in a real catering environment in the community. The skills they learn in The Tea Room will support them to continue their education, or find work when they leave college.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported us during our first few months of opening.

We will close on 24 July and reopen again on 2 September.

We look forward to seeing you in The Tea Room

Carolyn Varley, Head of Function Hospitality and Catering, Lufton College of FE

EAST COKER PTFA

East Coker School PTFA Summer Fair- Once again the weather was kind and our Summer Fair was a great success. The PTFA (Parents, Teachers and Friends Assoc.) organises the Fair each year and we would like to thank everyone from the village who came along to support the event either by buying something, donating or lending a hand in some way.

We include Friends in our Association because the School has such a strong relationship with the village and we very much appreciate your involvement, thank you and we look forward to seeing you again next year or at one of our other events in the year.

Geoff Mead- Kidd, Chair, East Coker PTFA

The Churches

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SUTTON BINGHAM

A very big thank you to all who supported and helped at our coffee morning at the Helyar Arms in May. We raised £423. Thank you to The Helyar Arms and their staff who put on the coffee and scones.

Church Roof

A scheme for sponsoring a tile, or any quantity, at £20 each, as special tiles are needed, is proving helpful. Forms for this exercise are obtainable from the Churchwardens (details below), or at the church.

Services

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Sunday 5 July 9.00am | Sunday 19 July 11.30am |
| Sunday 2 August 9.00am | Sunday 16 August 11.30am |
| Sunday 6 September 9.00am | Sunday 20 September 11.30am Harvest Service |
| Sunday 4 October 9.00am | Sunday 18 October 11.30am |

Advance Notice

We shall be holding a 'Silent Auction' at the East Coker Village Hall on Friday 16 October, any quality goods to sell will be appreciated.

Churchwardens Mrs Carol Blackmore 862192 Mr Antony Denning 474294

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Sunday 30 August Sung Matins – 10.00am
Other church services as usual during July and August
Sunday 6 September – Pet Service – 10.00am
Sunday 27 St Michael & All Angel's Service – 10.00am
Sunday 4 October Harvest Festival Eucharist – 10.00am.

Saturday 12 September – 10.00am. Sponsored bicycle ride; horse ride; walk or run in aid of Somerset Churches and Chapels half the proceeds going to Sutton Bingham Church.

East Coker Fête

Saturday 11 July at the Vicarage at 2.00pm. All the usual stalls, plus a Dog Show, Classic Cars and, hopefully, a Pony Class.

Harvest Supper – Wednesday 7 October 7.00pm for 7.30pm at East Coker Village Hall. For details, please phone Penny Marpole 863055

Service for those we have loved but no longer see

This year the service is on 1 November at 6.00pm. The preacher will be Bishop Peter Price. It will be a very special service.

I will be writing to those who have been bereaved during the last year to ask them both to the service and if they would like their loved ones' names read out. We are happy to include any other names of loved ones regardless of where they lived or died. As the list is long we ask for only one Christian name and surname. Please let me have their names by 21 October. Monica 862834

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH CLOSOWORTH

Closworth Family Services

We shall be holding our usual service on Sunday 19 July at 10.00am. Instead of the usual Evensong on Sunday 9 August, we shall be having a Songs of Praise at 6.30pm. Please let me have your choice of hymns well in advance. Sunday 16 August will probably be as usual, but please check first as it rather depends on a number of people's holidays and farming shows. Sunday 13 September Harvest Evensong at 6.30pm. Sunday 21 September is Harvest.

On 18 October, Archdeacon Nicola Sullivan will be sharing the service with us. It will be a very special time as I cannot recall the Archdeacon taking part in a service there previously and certainly not at a Family Service. For further details, please contact me. Monica 862834

BIBLE MID-WEEK MEETINGS 2009

We will be continuing our series from the Letter of St James up to and including the November meeting. Our speakers are:


Wednesday 15 July Adrian Reynolds – Yately Baptist Church – James 2:1-26

Wednesday 19 August Edward Armitstead – James 3:1-12

Wednesday 16 September Nigel Wilson-Brown – King's School Bruton – James 3:13 - 4:12

These meetings will take place in the East Coker Village Hall at 7.00pm. Do join us and bring your friends. Refreshments are served after each meeting. For further details contact Roy Hodder 862519 or Edward Armitstead 862785

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EAST COKER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, BURTON LANE

Coffee Stop. The Hall is open every Wednesday from 11.00am until 1.00pm for coffee and tea. All are welcome to come along and it is simply meant to be a place where friends can get together for a chat. There is no charge for the refreshments.

Bible Discussion. In the autumn we shall be holding a Bible Discussion group in the Chapel on alternate Thursday evenings. We will be looking at the Jeff Lucas DVD 'Elijah – Prophet at a loss'. If anyone would like to join us or form another study or discussion group, please contact Kevin Chapman for details of dates and times.

Weekly Meetings. 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays 11.00am – Worship Service (incorporating Communion). 2nd Sunday 11.00am – Family Service. Other services as announced. **All** are welcome to **all** of our services.

Alpha. We are planning to commence another Alpha Course in the autumn. Alpha is an introduction to the Christian faith and comprises a meal, a DVD of 30 minutes or so and a discussion time. Anyone interested please contact Kevin or other members of the Fellowship for more details.

Book Club. This is something of a new venture. As far as we are aware there is no Book Club operating in the village, but we suspect that there are a lot of book readers out there. If you are interested please give Kevin a call and we can arrange a date to get together to discuss the type of club you would like. Sir Richard Steele is credited with initiating the saying, "Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body". Is your mind getting sufficient exercise?

'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.' John's Gospel, chapter 3, verse 16 – The Gospel in a nutshell.

Kevin Chapman is available in the village each Tuesday and Wednesday. He can be contacted on 0781 2726853 or 422594 or email ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk Please do feel free to contact him if you have any queries about the Christian faith or if you would like someone to pray with you or simply to talk to.

THANK YOU

I should like to thank the two kind ladies who rescued my sister, Pam, near The Village Stores on Easter Sunday morning when her knee gave out and she was unable to move. They very kindly brought her back to Mill Close. It was a very kindly act. Unfortunately she did not get their names. Whoever you are, both Pam and I appreciate your help

Monica

GOOSE SLADE FARM SHOP

New for this year; '**GOOSEY FAIR' SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER, 2.00pm – 6.00pm**. * Sample goose and other products. * Fun activities for all the family. * Refreshments. Watch for more details.

Also New! We are now serving Morning Coffee and Somerset Cream Teas on the patio, when the weather permits!! A warm welcome awaits you.

Farm Shop opening hours are 10.00am – 6.00pm, Tuesday to Saturday.

For further information on either of the above please ring us on 863735. Phil, Liz, Joe and Lindsey Dunning

STANCHESTER SPORTS CENTRE

Summers holidays are almost here, so if you want to get fit and toned for the holidays why not come down to the centre. For adults we have fantastic membership rates to suit your individual needs. Membership starts from as little as £6 per week and there is no joining fee.

For youths aged 12-16 we have the Fit and Active Membership scheme, which includes unlimited gym use, badminton, tennis, plus access to ALL our classes, and for just £15 per month!

If membership isn't for you, come along and play tennis, badminton or join in with one of our pay-on-the-day exercise classes such as aerobics or boxercise. Our separate courses include Pilates, Keep-fit 50+, Fencing, and Badminton. All the activities are open to all level of abilities.

Our hugely successful, Ofsted registered, Summer Active Kidz programme starts the week beginning 27 July. For more details please telephone the Stanchester Sports Centre on 825261 or email us on stanchestersportscentre@somerset.gov.uk

EAST COKER MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

We would like to say thank you to everyone who supports the charity coffee mornings each month at The Helyar Arms, both the villagers and the charity organisers alike.

An amazing amount of money is raised each time for the participating charities. In March Rotary raised £510; in April the East Coker Society £352; in May Sutton Bingham Church £423 and in June Heartbeat £450.

We would also like to say a big thank you to The Helyar Arms for providing the venue, the coffee and, best of all, the scones! Thank you also to everybody who has contributed cakes.

Coffee morning dates 31 July Royal British Legion 28 August Greyhound Rescue
 25 September Childrens' Hospice (South West)

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313 and Penny Marpole 863055

CHRISTMAS BINGO

Christmas Bingo at East Coker Village Hall on 5 December in aid of St Margaret's Hospice (Yeovil). Doors open 6.45pm, eyes down 7.30pm. Prizes include: wine, hampers, chocolates. Coffee and mince pies at half-time. For more details, contact Nora White 477897

SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY

The mobile library visiting times and dates for the stops in 2009 are: 9 July 30 July 20 August
10 September 24 September

East Coker

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|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| The Helyar Arms | 11.45am – 12 noon | North Coker Bus Shelter | 12.05pm – 12.25pm |
| Meadow View | 12.30pm – 12.50pm | Maudslay Fields | 12.55pm – 13.15pm |

Sutton Bingham

| | |
|------------|-------------------|
| Bower Farm | 13.25pm – 13.45pm |
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**Barrie and Anne Hartley invite you to
come for Coffee and Cake in support of Rotary and
Inner Wheel Charities.
Draw and Book Stall, etc**

Saturday 8 August 10am – 12am

£2.50

6 Mill Close, East Coker

THANK YOU

Yet another successful plant sale at Weavers Lodge, East Coker in aid of Children's Hospice South West.

The bad weather held off for a while which encouraged a good turnout. We made a profit exceeding £400 for which we are very grateful.

We shall be holding another sale next year and hope it will be just as successful.

Thanks to everyone who attended and for their donations of money, raffle prizes and extra plants.

Hope to see you next year. Glenn and Christine Seymour

WESTLAKE SURGERY

As in previous years, the surgery will be closed for part of one morning each month for staff training. On these mornings there are none of the usual surgeries but a locum doctor is available to see anyone needing an appointment. The surgery is open from 8.30am – 11.00am as usual and then closes completely until 1.30pm. If a medical emergency occurs during that time then patients can either dial 999 or the surgery can be contacted on 07875750811. The surgery opens again as usual from 1.30pm.

The dates of the training days in 2009 are

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Friday 17 July | Friday 18 September | Friday 23 October | Friday 27 November |
|----------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|

EAST COKER AND ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH - FUTURE CHANGES

Cause for concern

The Diocese of Bath and Wells intends to implement plans which will fundamentally affect not only the tradition of worship within East Coker but also the very fabric of the village itself when Revd Roger Burt retires in June 2010.

Two things will happen –

1. The Churches of East Coker, Sutton Bingham and Closworth will join West Coker, Hardington, East Chinnock and Pendomer to become a group of 7 parishes. This group will be served by a full-time priest based at West Coker and a part-time priest at East Coker.
2. The vicarage at East Coker will be sold and the part-time priest will be provided with alternative housing.

The Vicar of West Coker has recently retired and the process of recruiting the full time priest to replace him is under way.

The part-time priest to succeed Roger Burt in East Coker will be appointed on a 'House for duty' basis – this means that he/she will be expected to perform parish duties for two days per week plus Sundays in exchange for rent-free living in a church house. No stipend will be paid to this individual.

How will this affect East Coker?

As you will know, Roger Burt is highly committed to the parish and, in addition to ensuring a full complement of regular services at all three churches, he works a full six days a week to provide outstanding pastoral care to all, regardless of whether they are regular churchgoers, not only through visits to those in need but through active involvement in many village activities. His visibility, accessibility and understanding of the community bring encouragement, comfort and support to the village – churchgoers and non-churchgoers alike.

There is no way that a part-time priest, as envisaged by the Diocese, can be expected to give this level of care and service to the community. East Coker has had a vicar continuously since 1180 AD. This depth of Christian history in the village has been a major influence in forming the community spirit and ethos which is East Coker today – we must not let it go!

The vicarage, together with the church, the almshouses, the school, the pub, the village hall and East Coker stores can in many ways be regarded as the heart of the village – historical, spiritual, cultural and temporal. The plan to sell the vicarage will be in complete contradiction to the intentions of the Helyar family who gave it for the benefit of the vicar and the parish in the 18th century. Not only does the vicarage provide accommodation for the vicar, it is also a vital resource for the church and village. It is used for meetings of many church related groups (we have no church hall), it is the venue for the village fête and other activities, and it provides essential parking space for the larger services at St. Michael's including weddings, funerals and baptisms.

All of us, churchgoers or not, expect to have ready access to help and support from our vicar when we need it, and the parish vicarage is where we expect to find it.

What can be done to change the Diocese's plans?

St. Michael's PCC is challenging the plans of the Diocese and will continue to argue the case on behalf of the Parish. We give a substantial financial contribution to Bath and Wells every year (about twice as much as similar parishes) and for this reason, if no other, our case should be taken seriously.

If you care about the effect that these changes will have on East Coker, write to the Bishop of Bath and Wells expressing your concerns (* address below). Alternatively email me and I will send a collated input. Equally, if you would like to know more about this issue please do not hesitate to contact me.

These changes are not trivial. If they are allowed to happen they will become permanent and irreversible, and the village and its future generations will have to learn to live with the consequences.

Martyn Sowerbutts (martyn.butts@virgin.net) 863313

*Address:

The Right Reverend Peter Price, Bishop of Bath and Wells, The Palace, Wells, Somerset BA5 2PD

Email: bishop@bathwells.anglican.org

BULK HEATING-OIL PURCHASE.

We Saved 2p (+ VAT) per litre on a Bulk Order for Heating Oil

In May seven people in the village got together and ordered just over 6000 litres of oil between them.

Each paid about 2p per litre less than that day's price for 1000 litres (saving about 6%) even if they had less than 1000 litres. That's the power of buying in bulk. Before you ask, the company invoices you directly; I just co-ordinate the orders.

The oil company says the best price should be towards the end of July, so if you want to join in, contact me, Paul Edwards. For mutual convenience I would prefer email - paulewards@waitrose.com otherwise 864413.

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

NOTES FROM THE OBSERVATORY

Summer Solstice – 21 June 2009

The last three months, being warmer but cloudier than our long very cold winter, made up for that unpleasant spell, yet we had two frosty mornings at the end of March. April was a cloudy month with warmer days, while May had a very warm end to the month. The warmest day so far this year was on 1 June when the shade temperature reached 23.5C (74.3F). Despite that pleasant spell the predicted 'barbeque summer' has yet to appear. Rainfall has been low so far this year. Since 1 January, 299mm (11.77ins) have fallen compared with 429mm (19.9ins) for the same period last year. By the end of our cold winter the mains water temperature had fallen to 5C (41F) but has now recovered to 19C (66.2F).

The cold winter followed by a warmer Spring has evidently suited some species. After an excellent daffodil display down Bunford Hill and along Lysander Road the roadside verges became yellow with an amazing growth of common dandelions, yet the annual Spring display of Cow Parsley or Queen Anne's Lace along our hedges has not been as prolific this year.

The lessening show of butterflies has continued into 2009. So far only a few specimens of Orange Tips, Brimstones, Speckled Woods, and Large Whites have been seen. A single Painted Lady appeared on 22 May, yet I have received reports of many being seen in other gardens. A newspaper report alerted us to a great influx of Painted Ladies expected from North Africa. A few Common Blues fed on low growing Birdsfoot Trefoil in early June.

Other insects have appeared in larger numbers than usual. Frog Hoppers, or spit insects have appeared in profusion, while, in my small garden pond, Water Boatmen are in much larger numbers than usual.

I have received two reports of Red Kites flying on Lodge Hill but have not seen these rare birds myself. My attention was drawn to a pack of Jackdaws seeing off a Magpie that was causing some concern to the group. A family of Long-tailed Tits visited my garden in early June. Mole heaps were a feature of early Spring on roadside verges.

I was surprised at the number of adventitious trees that have appeared on an uncultivated garden plot. So far, Oaks, Horse Chestnuts, Beech, Ash and a Hop have appeared as if from nowhere. Primroses and Cowslips have also appeared as if by magic.

Saturn has been a prominent feature of the night sky but is now moving westwards. Jupiter will replace Saturn by the end of August, best seen in the late evening looking south-east at the end of August or early September.

The rings of Saturn have been edge-on to us for some time and will be difficult to see, even with a good telescope.

Francis Cloke. 862496

THE HELYAR ARMS

BBQ Lunch starting Sunday 5 July 12 noon – 2.00pm until the end of August.

Every Wednesday 'Pie Day' – Homemade Pies £6.95. Every Monday 'Steak Night' – 2 steaks £20.

The Skittle Alley is available for booking, please ring for availability and prices.

Quiz Night

To be held on 26 July. Four persons per team at £5 per team. Good fun for everyone!

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EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

New Parish Councillor, J B Bennett from Plackett Lane was welcomed to the May meeting. He will represent the Wraxhill ward and replaces C Rose, who has resigned.

A Traffic Meeting at the East Coker School on Thursday, 2 July, will attempt to rectify some of the problems associated with School 'rush half-hour' when the North Coker main junction often finds itself gridlocked – this notice will be too late to remind you to attend, but The Parish Council is as eager as anyone to ease the situation. Asking parents to park sensibly away from the 'squeeze' area, and walk with their children to school may well fall on deaf ears as those coming from outside the village are probably the ones who initiate the problems. Please avoid the school area during busy periods if at all possible – difficult if you live there, but use another route or delay your journey if you can, and hopefully the meeting will help towards a solution. East Coker is justly proud of its thriving primary school, and all efforts are being made to keep the road safe.

House boundaries can become untidy at this time of the year. The council has trimmed verges, but please check that your hedges are trimmed and safe for road users, especially those on foot. Thank you to those who have already tidied boundaries.

The Pavilion was vandalized in the early spring. Only one person has been prosecuted. He has been fined and the council will receive compensation to help with repairs. This has been disappointing, as more people were involved, but at least there has been a result. Please be vigilant – the quick actions of a neighbour resulted in these arrests.

The refurbishment of the Pavilion is progressing – the changing rooms are taking shape and the kitchen area fitted. Further changes are in progress and we hope to be able to offer facilities for small parties who would like to use the safe play/grass areas for functions in the future. Meanwhile, several cricket teams are using the pitch and will hopefully benefit from the improvements. We are hoping that everything will be up and running before the football season starts.

Please walk your dogs well away from play areas and bag and bin dogs' mess, wherever you are. Once bagged, dogs' mess will not decompose naturally, so it **must** be removed and placed in a dog bin. Bags thrown in hedge bottoms and dogs' mess left on paths and verges are a constant health risk to our lengthsman as he strims grass around the parish. Please also be prepared to tell anyone about the importance of bagging and binning if you see them ignoring what is, after all, a commonsense way of dealing with a mucky issue!

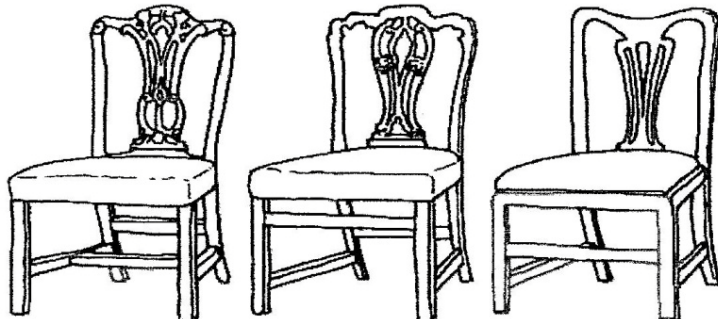
Bonfires are often an anti-social activity. If you *must* have a bonfire, please consider your neighbours and anyone downwind of your burn-up. It is illegal to burn many materials that cause smut, noxious smells and black smoke. Plastic, rubber, painted materials, animal remains, fur, feathers etc. come into this category. Bonfires can pollute the atmosphere (be aware of neighbours' washing on the line!) and, with open windows at this time of year, invade the privacy of houses, especially at night when many like to sleep with windows open. If you **must** have a bonfire, make sure it is safe; make sure you are not burning materials that cause smells and make sure that it is extinguished as soon as possible and especially before nightfall.

Barbecues are a more social activity and few object to them, but please consider your neighbours whilst you enjoy this summer weather.

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in October 2009. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or e-mail L.Lindsay@eastcoker.com or to The Store, East Coker by **Thursday 24 September 2009**.

KEN MARSH u p h o l s t e r y



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