

East Coker Society Newsletter



July 2010

Free Issue No 139

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East Coker Society News

MORE EMAILS PLEASE!

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.

We have roughly 800 households in the village, yet only 178 have taken up the e-mail option. In asking for villagers co-operation it is stressed that:

- Individuals' e-mail addresses are secure and will not be disclosed to any other party.
- All villagers who wish to continue to receive hard copies of the Newsletter can continue to enjoy this option.
- 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.

LITTER

East Coker is admired by visitors from both home and abroad. We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful village. Some people already help with litter picking. We can all help by clearing the areas close to our own homes or on our walks around the village.

VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY 2010

The 2010 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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the AGM of the East Coker Society held on the 18 May, the majority of the Executive Committee was re-elected en bloc. It was disappointing that only one villager attended, as all villagers are automatically members of the Society. We would welcome some new members to serve on the Executive Committee, so if you feel you could give your experience to the Society, please phone the Secretary 862218

Village Clubs and Organisations

THE COKER 400 CLUB

The winners of the June draw: £100 Mr R Chatwin; £50 Mrs D Bates; £40 Mrs M Field; £30 Mrs M B Dunster; £20 Mr K McIver; £15 Mrs A Charles; £10 Mrs E Cowley; £10 Lady Leng.

If anyone would like to join the 400 Club, the annual subscription is £20 (payable quarterly by Bankers Order), please contact Mike Weston 862472, Gloria Mead 862364, Mary Ashley 862263 or Arthur Rees 862828

SUMMER!

Now that summer is hopefully upon us, please remember your neighbours and do not cut your lawns on a sunny Sunday afternoon or have a BBQ next to your neighbour's fence and when having bonfires make sure the smoke doesn't blow across your neighbour's garden.

This makes a happy summer for everyone!

EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Branch held their Annual Cheese & Wine evening on Friday 23 April 2010 at East Coker Village Hall. During the evening, presentations were made by the County Chairman to Sue Hounsell, our retiring Poppy Appeal Organiser. Sue (with husband Barry) helped Betty Drake for many years, before taking over as organiser in 1997. In the past 13 years over £50,000 has been raised for the Poppy Appeal and our thanks go to Sue and her dedicated team of collectors. One of whom, Tony Cox, was presented with a 20-year certificate and badge, during the evening. The Committee would like to thank all members and friends for their tremendous support on such a special occasion. Thanks also to all the helpers and to those who generously donated food and raffle prizes.

Our Guest Speakers from County Office, David Lowe and Hannah Robinson, were able to show how some of the money raised is spent, in helping our armed forces within the county and beyond, especially at this time with our local Royal Marine 40 Commando Group from Norton Camp near Taunton, on deployment in Afghanistan. The Royal British Legion is there to offer financial and welfare support to them, their dependants and to support the many retired service personnel and families, who, as age catches up need that little bit of help, financial or otherwise. It is vital we strive to the raise funds necessary to continue our work.

Thank you all for your continued support.

A note for the diary, the Branch Coffee Morning will take place in East Coker Village Hall on Saturday 23 October 10.00am – 12 noon.

Chairman David Holland 862782; Secretary Marilyn Smith 863944; Membership Caroline Field 863271

ADVANCE NOTICE of the WINTER FAYRE – In aid of All Saints' Sutton Bingham Roof Fund

Saturday 20 November 2010, 2.00pm – 4.00pm at the East Coker Village Hall

Book early! Tables for the Winter Fayre are available. The price is £2 a foot, for 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 foot tables. Setting up of tables will be from 1.00pm onwards.

Individuals or organisations who wish to reserve a table should please fill in the form below, and send it with either cash or a cheque, by 6 November at the latest, made payable to, **Carol Blackmore**, Pippins, Higher Burton, East Coker tel. 862192. This will make certain your stall is reserved.



WINTER FAYRE SATURDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2010 – East Coker Village Hall – 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Name of Organisation.....

Type of Stall.....

Contact Name and Telephone Number.....

Size of table at £2 per foot..... I enclose £.....Signed.....



EAST COKER READING GROUP

We meet on the first Tuesday evening of each month. We are currently reading 'Dear Fatty' by Dawn French. Next we are looking at 'The God of Small Things' by Arundhati Roy. At the moment there are eight of us meeting but, if there is sufficient interest, we would like to form a day time group as well. If you wish to have more details please contact Kevin Chapman on 07812726853 or 01935 422594 or email ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk

MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

This year's programme of Charity Coffee Mornings kicked off in January with a strongly supported event for Help for Heroes (£445), followed by Haiti Disaster Fund, Cystic Fibrosis, Diabetic Association, Sutton Bingham Church Roof Fund, and Fresh Start. Thanks to the generous support given by all those who have attended the events, the total raised so far this year is £1600.

We have a full programme for the rest of this year, and another five charities have already booked events for 2011. Many thanks to everyone at the Helyar Arms for their continuing support of these popular and worthwhile village charity events.

Friday 30 July – Yeovil Heartbeat
Friday 27 August – Cancer Research
Friday 24 September – Nephrotic Syndrome

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313, Penny Marpole 863055

EAST COKER ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

We are doing a new event this year for the little ones – it will be called 'Walk for Tiny Lives' and will take place at 11.00am on Saturday 10 July at the Pavilion. The aim is for the little ones to walk around the recreation field and finish up with a picnic at the pavilion. The sponsorship money they get will all go to our Touching Tiny Lives Appeal to find answers to premature births. Please contact Jane Donnelly on 478409 for further details.

A date for your diary - we will be holding our Xmas Shopping Event again this year at the East Coker Village Hall on Thursday 4 November – more details to follow in due course.

Jane Donnelly

EAST COKER PLAYERS

At Players we have been very busy preparing a programme of events for members and anyone who would like to join us. To continue as a group we need new members from aged 8 years upwards. Have a look at our programme and come along. All welcome.

- 3 July** Fund Raising at East Coker Village Fete.
- 5 July** Voice Workshop with Ian White 7.00pm.
- 12 July** BBQ – Members, family, newcomers and friends. The Poplars, East Coker 7.00pm. Bring a chair, plate, cutlery and drink. Tickets £3.00, contact Nora White on 477897 or Vicky in the Village Shop.
- 6 September** Drama Workshop with Sophie Lazell 7.00pm – 9.00pm
- Autumn 2010** Theatre Outing.
- 4 October** Halloween Show Meeting 7.00pm. Bring your ideas of what you would like to do. Sing a song, Dance, Read a poem anything on a spooky theme. Maybe this year you would like to help back stage or front of house. Come along.
- 18 October** Halloween Rehearsal.
- 25 October** Halloween Rehearsal.
- 30 October** Halloween Supper Show. Price of tickets TBA to include soup and bread supper – bring your own drink.

Membership – Adults £5 Children £2 (Min age 8 years). If you are interested in joining us and/or would like to take part in the workshops, please contact Hazel Giddings Secretary, East Coker Players 429163

Have a lovely summer.

P.S We are once again asking for anyone who has borrowed costumes or props from us recently, or in the past, and not returned them to contact us to arrange to bring them back. No questions asked. Thank you.



Are you suffering from joint and muscle stiffness, high blood pressure, headaches or postural and mobility issues, or are you feeling stressed and finding it difficult to cope with your life? Massage can help! As well as smoothing out the aches and pains and tensions it can also contribute to your general sense of well being and aliveness.

Why not take the opportunity to find out how that might feel?

I am a qualified massage practitioner and I live and work in East Coker. You will be treated with sensitivity and respect at all times within a homely and peaceful environment.

To have a chat and/or book an appointment call Rosie on 01935 862767 or 07733121819.

EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

2010 Summer Open Evening – 29 June 2010 – 7:30pm

Always popular, these open evenings are an opportunity to hear both new poetry and old favourites in a live reading event that is open for anyone to come along and take part. No theme - just bring some poems.

Inspired by Artists – 27 July 2010 – 7:30pm

With a mix of the visual and poetic, this evening blends poetry and art and will be presented by Caroline Mornement and Gaie Vickers. A feast for the senses.

East meets West – 28 September 2010 – 7:30pm

Six poets from **West Coker** will boldly cross the border into **East Coker** to present their poetry. Led by Stella Davis and two other published poets, this should be a great showcase for local poetry in South Somerset.

All meetings at The Helyar Arms, East Coker

Contact Group Co-ordinator David Cloke on 862623

EAST COKER KEEP FIT

Ladies and gentlemen of East Coker. The East Coker Keep Fit Group is on its summer break at the moment, we return in early September.

We meet in the East Coker Village Hall on Tuesday Evenings at 6.15pm for an hour of Exercise, Movement and Dance.

New members of all ages are always welcome to join us.

For further details contact Mary Ashley on 862263

www.eastcoker.com

EAST COKER W I

We continue to have varied and interesting speakers at our monthly meetings, recently hearing about the fascinating island of Tristan da Cunha and how the inhabitants coped with the volcanic eruption; the work of puppy-walkers training dogs to help the blind; and also the local flax industry. In June we had our birthday outing, a canal trip on the River Avon from Bath, and a ploughman's lunch on board the boat. In July we are hearing about Gypsy caravans and in August about Mercy ships. In September we propose to have an Open Evening with a travelogue about New Zealand. At this event we welcome both male and female guests and the entrance fee of £3 will include refreshments.

The nationwide Women's Institute has a strong political voice which the government takes note of, their latest issue being the proper labelling of food so that members of the public know the country of origin of the product rather than just the country in which it was packed.

Members also have the opportunity to attend Denman College, where courses are run continuously, ranging through artistic achievements, cookery, photography, rambles and much, more. We are also affiliated to the Yeovil Group which arranges social events and outings.

East Coker W.I meets on the last Thursday of the month at 7.30pm at the East Coker Village Hall and we welcome prospective members at each of our meetings. For any further information please contact the secretary, Joyce Pryor 862816.

Copperfields Services

Property Maintenance

Pete Clarke

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Extensions

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EAST COKER FLOWER CLUB

The funds arising from the Flower Club meetings have been donated to St Margaret's Hospice, Yeovil.

Lesley Lindsay and Angela McClure

EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

July to October Programme

Thursday 8 July	Wildlife in the Garden: Friend or Foe? – David Manner
Thursday 12 August	English Cheese – Derek March
Thursday 9 September	Fuchsias – Michael Horrobin, Lonsdale Nurseries
Thursday 14 October	Kerton Sweet Peas – Mr P. Kerton

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).

EAST COKER FLOWER SHOW & WINE FESTIVAL – 21 August 2010 at 2.00pm

The schedules are now available from the East Coker Stores, the Tea Room and Goose Slade Farm Shop. We have a wide variety of classes for everyone. Please have a go, all classes to be shown between 8.30a.m and 11.00a.m when the judging will start.

If you would like help just ask one of the committee members who will be wearing a badge.. This is a village event and everyone is welcome, young and old. If you don't enter, then come and see the wonderful display of fruit, vegetables, flowers, craft, (cooking) home-craft, floral art, photography and children classes.

The doors will open at 2.00pm and the presentation of the trophies will take place at 4.00pm, with an auction of the produce at 4.30pm.

Young People

EAST COKER TEA-ROOMS

Penny, Ann and the students welcome regular and new customers to The Tearooms (near the School). We are open every day from 9.00am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday throughout the year for Coffee and Cakes, Light Lunches and Tea and Cakes, serving good home-cooked food. Cream Teas are also available with prior notice.

We are closed Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays.

For more information visit our website www.eastcokertearooms.co.uk Telephone 863351.

EAST COKER PLAYGROUP

The Playgroup topics for this Summer Term have been 'All About Me and the Sea'. This is merely the starting point because the children are learning through play and what interests them. Hence each day is different and really rather exciting at times!

The location of the playgroup with its playing field just outside allows for the play to flow inside and out. Outside there may be ride-on bikes, trikes and cars, sand and water play, dressing up, hoops and play in the gazebos (providing shade outside). There may be books to look at and read, construction toys, or a home corner. Inside the pavilion there maybe playdoh or clay to make things with, adult led activities challenging the children to investigate and explore and learn, puzzles to make, 'small world' play, the opportunities go on. Kay, her staff and the children mix it all up and have fun learning.

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 Strode on 07798 812540 or after 6.00pm on 872126

The playgroup Summer Fair on the 12 June was fortunate to enjoy the fantastic sunny weather we have been having and was a lovely way to spend a Saturday afternoon. As we go to press, the amount raised for playgroup funds is just over £700.00. The committee would like to send a massive thank you to everyone who contributed to and supported the event.

On Sunday 7 November 2010 the playgroup's next fundraising event is our annual Craft Fair. Stalls are available now; please contact the event co-ordinator, Sharon Shire on 422201 to make a booking, or for information.

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EAST COKER SCHOOL

9 July KS1 Sports – 9.30am
16 July KS2 Sports Day – 9.30am
21 July Year 6 performance for parents

The Summer Fair held on Friday 11 June 2010 was a very successful event. The amount raised for the PTFA funds this year was £2,850.45 – a fantastic achievement.

Arts Week

Our week of arts activities was brilliant; the children had a range of activities and experiences which they thoroughly enjoyed and gained a lot from. Mrs Clarke organised the week and was supported by some very talented staff and parents who were generous with their time and skills. I am sure you were impressed by the Rangoli picture on the playground and by the work the children have already brought home; more of the results of activities will be displayed when decorating has been completed in the holidays.

Music Day gave the children a chance to show off their skills with a variety of instruments, dance and some super singing. Many thanks go to Mrs Bailey for organising the day. We ended the week in noisy fashion with our visit from Drum Crazy.

Sports News

This could merit a newsletter on its own, but in summary:

- The Year 5 and Year 6 boys' cricket teams qualified for the Partnership finals
- The Year 6 girl cricketers won their Partnership finals and were one of 8 teams to compete in the County finals where they came 4th.
- 4 soccer teams took part in the Martock tournament; one of the girls' teams came second.
- Our Athletics team came a fantastic 1st out of 18 schools at the area event.
- The swimmers were 3rd in the Yeovil Large Schools gala.
- Year 2 athletes came 3rd in the Quad Kids athletics competition.
- Last but definitely not least – the girl's netball team clinched the title of Yeovil Area League Champions.

All this participation and success has only been possible with the skills and enthusiasm of the children along with the help that many parents give; special mention to Jo Hayward, Steve Teversham and Jane Gamble, and those who helped run the athletics and swimming events. Behind it all is the drive and commitment of Mr Pittard.

As well as the success in many of these competitions we are always very proud of the way that the children represent East Coker School through their attitude and behaviour.

Appointments

Following interviews, I am pleased to tell you that we have appointed Miss Emma Crabb to the Class 3 teachers post in September and Miss Anne-Marie Evans to the maternity-cover post in Class 2, also from September.

Park and Stride

We have been running a trial 'park and stride' scheme based at the East Coker Village Hall which comes to an end this week. I am very grateful to the parents who have volunteered to walk around with the children. There does seem to be enough interest for the scheme to go ahead in the new school year so I will present the results of the trial to the village hall committee and ask for their go-ahead next term.

Vacancies

We are looking to appoint a part-time grounds-man to look after the outside areas of the school. The post would be for 3 hours a week and the hours can be flexible to accommodate a suitable candidate. Further details from the school office.

We also occasionally need cover for staff absence among our team of lunchtime supervisors and cleaners. If you might be interested in stepping in when needed for either of these duties please contact the school office.

Term Dates

Term 1 begins Thursday 2 September and ends Thursday 21 October

Term 2 begins Monday 1 November and ends Friday 17 December

Richard Powell, Head Teacher

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

Autumn Jumble Sale – Saturday 9 October East Coker Village Hall from 2.00pm. **REMEMBER WE WILL COLLECT.** Contact Max Bugler 862186.

The Scout Group would like to thank everyone who supported their Coffee Morning at Closworth on 26 June. A total of £535 was raised for the Jamboree Fund.

Waste Paper Collections: The collection point is opposite the School on the last Saturday of each month from 8.30am to 10.30am. If possible please flat-pack your newspapers and tie into bundles.

Saturday 31 July

Saturday 28 August

Saturday 25 September

Scouts Jack Dudden and Ashley Glover have been selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden, representing Somerset in 2011, and East Coker Scout Group are holding various events over the next year to raise funds.



The Pub-Olympics @ Sonny's The Royal Oak Hardington

Raising Funds for

East Coker Scout Group

On Saturday 2nd October starting at 7.00pm prompt.
A fun International event for teams of 4, name your Country and compete for an array of fun prizes. The competition comprises of a compendium of pub games including pool, skittles, darts, bar billiards, etc.....

Tickets £7.50 per person to include supper.

First come first served basis. Book early to have plenty of opportunity for training!
And remember the team name.

Raffle

A Great Night Out!

Tickets available from Sonny's or contact Jack Dudden
01935 862357

The Churches

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Services

4 July	10.00am	Family Eucharist	TF	6.00pm	Evensong	CH ®
11 July	8.00am	Holy Communion	TF	10.00am	Sung Eucharist	DS
18 July	10.00am	Sung Eucharist	RB	6.00pm	Evensong	GD
25 July	10.00am	Sung Eucharist	CH	6.00pm	Evensong	MW
1 August	10.00am	Family Eucharist		6.00pm	Evensong	
8 August	8.00am	Holy Communion		10.00am	Sung Eucharist	
15 August	10.00am	Sung Eucharist		6.00pm	Evensong	
22 August	10.00am	Sung Eucharist		6.00pm	Evensong	
29 August	10.00am	Matins				

Priests and Readers

DW	David Woodley	TF	Trevor Farmiloe
CH	Charles Howard	DS	Donald Salway
MW	Monica Whipp	RB	Richard Buckley
CJ	Clifford Jenkins	GD	Geoff Doye
CH	Chris Harris ®		

Date for your diary

Wednesday 6 October 2010 – Harvest Supper, 7.00pm for 7.30pm at East Coker Village Hall. For details, please phone Penny Marpole 863055

ALL SAINTS' CLOSWORTH

Since Roger left we have tried to maintain the usual pattern of worship. The 9.00am Service is proving not easy to arrange, please check services with the Church Magazine of phone Penny, Tim or me. August is a month when many children are away, so instead of the usual Family Service on 15 August we will do the same as we did last year and have a combined 'Songs of Praise' on 8 August at 6.30pm. Please let me have the hymns you would like to sing. If there are a lot we may just sing some of the verses. Last year we did sing rather a lot! Please let me have the hymns well in advance. To give us a break the Rev David Wilson, who is the new vicar of West Coker Churches will give a talk. This service is not limited to Closworth and I hope there will be people not only from East Coker but also elsewhere. Monica 862834

Services

11 July	6.30pm	Evensong	MW
18 July	10.00am	Family Service	MW
25 July	9.00am	Holy Communion	TF
8 August	6.30pm	Songs of Praise	MW
22 August	9.00am	Holy Communion	

September is the month of Harvest

12 September	6.30pm	Harvest Evensong	
19 September	10.00am	Harvest Family Service	

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SUTTON BINGHAM

4 July	9.00am	Holy Eucharist 1662	DW
18 July	11.30	Sung Holy Communion	CJ
01 August	9.00am	Holy Eucharist 1662	
15 August	11.30	Sung Holy Communion	

The Coffee Morning held at The Helyar Arms on 28 May was a great success and £362, with donations, was the total towards the Roof Fund. Grateful thanks to The Helyar Arms and all who attended.

Saturday 31 July, in aid of Sutton Bingham Roof Fund, A Coffee and Biscuits Morning will be held at the home of John and Bridget Sugg, Little Foxholes, East Coker, from 10.00am – 12 noon. Entrance £2.50, children free. Cake Stall, raffle etc. All welcome.

Churchwardens Mrs Carol Blackmore 862192 Mrs Heather Snook 474138

EAST COKER VICARAGE

We are making good progress in our continuing negotiations with the Diocese of Bath and Wells for the retention of the vicarage. The current agreement we have, in summary, is

- Bath and Wells will lease the vicarage to an East Coker Vicarage Charitable Trust for a period of 20 years
- The trust will receive a substantial annual payment towards the maintenance of the property
- The vicarage will be provided as accommodation for the new priest based in East Coker
- The vicarage will continue to act as a centre for the many church related groups, functions and activities which are so important to the parish

There are still many details to be finalised but we hope to have the new Trust established in the next couple of months and the lease and other agreements signed soon after.

Many thanks to all those who have so actively supported the campaign to retain the vicarage. We look forward to your continued support so that we can maintain this important village asset in the years to come.

As we assume our new responsibility for the property, we will obviously need help both practical and financial. Anyone who would like to volunteer to contribute in any way towards this effort – from painting or lawn mowing to fund raising – please don't hesitate to contact me.

Martyn Sowerbutts 863313

BIBLE MID-WEEK MEETINGS

A Series in Colossians – 'Rooted in Jesus'

Wednesday 21 July 7.00pm James Dudley-Smith, St John's, Yeovil. Colossians 1:15-23 In awe of Jesus.

Wednesday 18 August 7.00pm Ian Lewis, St Bartholomew's Bath. Colossians 1:24-2:5 The riches of Jesus.

Wednesday 15 September 7.00pm Paul Cattermole, former Army Chaplain. Colossians 2:6-23 Free in Jesus.

These meetings take place in the East Coker Village Hall. Do join us and bring your friends with you. Refreshments are served after each meeting.

For further details contact Roy Hodder 862519 or Edward Armitstead 862785

EAST COKER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, BURTON LANE

Weekly Meetings 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays 11.00am – Worship Service. 2nd Sunday 11.00am – Family Service. 4th Sunday 6.30pm – Communion.
Other services as announced. **All** are welcome to **all** of our services.

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.

'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.

Kevin Chapman is available in the village each Tuesday and Wednesday. He can be contacted on 07812726853 or 01935 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.

Village Fete By the time you read this we hope that many of you will have had an enjoyable time at the Village Fete on 3 July.

Thank you to everyone who participated and to all of you who supported the day with your presence. Although the task of organising the fete was only taken on in late May you supported the event exceptionally well and many charities and local clubs will have benefited from the occasion.

MR FRANCIS CLOKE

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Mr Francis Cloke who wrote such wonderful nature notes on the wild-life activities in East Coker. They were one of the most popular items in the Newsletter and every time a new one went out I would get emails, that I would pass on to him, saying how much people enjoyed his writing.

The donations in his memory, of £264, have been given to the East Coker Society because of his connection with the Newsletter and we thank his family for this tremendous gesture.

Below is a short tribute from his son, David that was read out at his funeral.

"Francis Wilford Cloke was born at Kenfig Hill in South Wales, although his roots were in Cornwall where his family had originally come from. But most of his life was spent in the industrial North-west of England where, as a young biologist, he came in 1944 to help set up the first factory in Europe to produce penicillin. He married Diana in 1948 and went on to become Personnel Director at the factory in Flemming Road, Liverpool. To work in industrial relations in Liverpool in the 1960's and 70's must have seemed an unenviable job, yet he earned the respect of not only his colleagues but also the local Trades Union officials. I can do no better than to read a few extracts from a letter written by one of his former colleagues, John Thorley:

'The outstanding thing about Francis was that he was always such a wonderfully kind and sincere man. He was trustworthy and honest; a real friend..... When I came to the Distillers Company in 1957 for a job interview, the man who interviewed me was, of course, (Francis). He became Personnel Director in the mid-sixties and I became Production Director in 1968. We always stood together in the very enjoyable 'James Diamond' years..... It meant so much to have such a trustworthy and loyal 'pal' like Francis. He was always fair to everyone and went out of his way to ensure that people at the bottom of the pack received as much help and advice as was possible. He always took great pride in doing his job well'.

Francis retired in the 1980's and after Diana's death in 1989 he came to live in Somerset, near his son David at East Coker with whom he shared an interest in Amateur radio and flying. He always noticed and marvelled in the natural world around him and his quarterly 'Notes from the Observatory' column in the East Coker Newsletter were enjoyed by many. He was very well read and with a lovely sense of humour and it was no surprise that his bus pass contained not his picture, but that of William Shakespeare. There were few subjects that he was not knowledgeable on and although in some ways he was a quite a private man, he was always excellent company and will be greatly missed by those who knew him."

PRIMROSE HILL FARM CREAM TEA – 10 July 2010 – in aid of 'Colonaid'

In aid of St Margaret's Hospice and Bowel Cancer Charities.

Cream Teas, Raffle, Plant stall, etc

From 2.00pm – 5.30pm

All welcome!

GOOSE SLADE FARM SHOP – GOOSEY FAYRE

We will be holding our 'Goosey Fayre' again this year to celebrate Michaelmas on Saturday 25 September from 12 noon. **FREE ENTRY.** Come along for family fun and children's activities, bbq from 12 noon, food tastings, sample roast goose, fund-raising stalls, bar and cream teas.

As well as stocking home-reared meat and a wide range of locally sourced products, we are serving coffee and toasted tea-cakes and afternoon Somerset cream teas on the patio whilst you enjoy the wonderful view of Dorset and our geese grazing in the field. We look forward to serving you soon.

Phil, Liz & Lindsey Dunning 863735

SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY

The mobile library visiting times and dates for the stops in 2010 are:

15 July 05 August 26 August 16 September 07 October 28 October
18 November 09 December

East Coker

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

LOCAL ORGANIC FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BOX SCHEME DELIVERED FREE TO EAST COKER

In an attempt to support our local Somerset organic farmers, there is now a drop-off point in East Coker village for you to buy a vegetable box or fruit box. Somerset Organic Link SOL are delivering free of charge to Compton Cottage, (up past the church, top of the hill). They deliver every Wednesday morning, you can order weekly or fortnightly or ad-hoc, the week before and pay on the day at any time.

The price of a standard vegetable or fruit box is £6 or a large vegetable or fruit box is £8.30, and 5 kg sack of potatoes £2.60.

If you would like to try a box please contact Sarah Palmer 862369 for more details or email sarahpalmer66@hotmail.com. More information about SOL can be found on their website: www.somersetorganiclink.co.uk

THANK YOU

Once again it was a fantastic fun-raising morning for St. Margaret's Hospice at Weavers Lodge, East Coker. The day was beautiful with a great turnout, raising approximately **£500**. This far exceeded our previous years.

I would like to thank all those that attended, those that donated money, raffle prizes and extra plants, it was all very worthwhile.

Any pots, plastic containers etc that you find lurking in your shed are always most welcome.

We hope to see you all next year. Once again thank you all.

Christine and Glenn Seymour 863961.

WESTLAKE SURGERY TRAINING DAYS

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 8.30 am – 11 00am as usual and then closes completely until 1.30 pm. If a medical emergency occurs during that time then patients can either dial 999 or the surgery can be contacted on 0787 575 0811. The surgery opens again as usual from 1.30 pm.

The dates of the training days in 2010 are:-

Friday 30 July Friday 17 September Friday 22 October Friday 26 November

THANK YOU

Sue and Bob Richards would like to thank everyone who came to their Open Gardens at Owl Cottage, Coker Marsh, on the 30/31 May 2010.

It was a great success and £1,800 was raised with £600 going to St Margaret's Hospice and £1,200 to the National Garden Scheme. Many thanks to all the helpers, too.

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AUNTIE PEGGY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Is there anybody left in the Village who remembers the Old Chapel in Long Furlong Lane, and the regular Sunday morning sugar-filled gathering of our children? Just in case, and so that she goes down in posterity, Auntie Peggy was a larger than life lady, who loved children, and gathered them around her everywhere she went. This was partly due to the huge amount of sweeties that she carried with her and partly because she was an amazing, kindly person.

The boys and girls met every Sunday to sing, dance, play, listen to stories about Jesus and eat sweets! They all had a wonderful time and every so often they would come to St Michael's to do the same thing, under the watchful eye of our then vicar, David Hunt, who occasionally insisted that the sugar intake was reduced!

Every summer, we had a charabanc outing to Weymouth, where we met under the clock, with picnics, ice-creams, lemonade and chocolate. It was always sunny and the sea was always warm. The children adored every minute of it, especially when fish and chips were also on the menu just before we climbed on the bus to come home, singing songs and laughing our heads off with the happiness of the moment. Auntie Peggy had a generosity of spirit, which is hard to forget, and although her happy band of children are now in their 30's and 40's, she is not forgotten. I just wish that outings to Weymouth had the same touch these days – it always seems to be cold and the sea icy! Sweets are banned or rationed, lemonade no longer an option and children and grandchildren are held tightly by the hand and under constant supervision!

But, oh how sweet are those happy memories of the freedom of Weymouth in the summer, paddling in the sea, hundreds of sticky sweeties and the remarkable warmth of Auntie Peggy. Wish I could go back.

Sandra Snelling

HELLO

Let me introduce myself, my name is Rachel Cozens and I teach Rosemary Conley Diet and Fitness classes on a Thursday morning at East Coker Village Hall 9.30 am - 11.00 am.

Are you fed up feeling tired and not being able to fit into your clothes? If the answer is yes then YOU have to do something to change that, unfortunately it does not just happen, you have to change your lifestyle slowly. Please read the article on walking. If you are interested in doing more exercise or losing weight and would like to join one of my classes, (I also do classes in Yeovil), then please ring 864453 or visit my website at www.rosemaryconley.com. Since I launched in September 2008 my members have lost between them over 1,400 stone.

Walking

Walking is fantastic, it is free and most people can do it. It is a brilliant way to get fit. We are very lucky to live in a beautiful part of the world, so there are no excuses. If you feel that walking is not fat-burning then think again, it is as long as you are walking at the right pace. Remember if you do not use it you will lose it! Ask yourself a question, do you want to become more sedentary or are you going to make that change?

Getting Started

- **Good Pair of Trainers/Walking Boots** – Ensure you are comfortable, if you have weak ankles you will need a strong supported pair of boots that support your ankle.
- **Pedometer if You Want to Keep A Count of Your Steps** – The daily recommendation is 10,000, if you are sedentary and find this difficult then slowly up your steps throughout the week, and before you know it you will be achieving your goals.
- **Discover Your Walking Pace** – To burn wobbly bits and to strengthen your heart and lungs you will need to get to a pace where you are slightly out of breath and feeling warm. To increase your pace swing your arms bent when walking or take longer, or faster strides (remember everyone has their own pace).
- **Ensure You Have Right Technique** – You should always stand up tall, with your tummy held in (imagine the person of your dreams is walking by!), you also need to do a heel, toe strike when walking, shoulders back.
- **Increase Your Steps and Intensity** – Gradually, but always, start off at a gentle pace to warm up those muscles and remember to stretch out when finished.
- **Take a Bottle of Water with you to Keep Rehydrated**

2000 steps is approximately 1 mile (10,000 = 5 miles)

Bye for now. Rachel (Rosemary Conley Franchisee - Yeovil, Taunton and Bridgwater)

RAINFALL DURING THE SECOND QUARTER OF THE YEAR

As the 19th Century baron, Charles Bowen wrote

'The rain it raineth on the just
And also on the unjust fella:
But chiefly on the just, because
The unjust steals the just's umbrella.'

However, such petty larceny would not have disturbed the citizens of North Coker since Easter; for the rainfall recorded in the garden of North Coker Hall from 1 April to 22 June happens to be exactly 4 inches (10cm) – one of the lowest figures for the Spring quarter in fifteen years of keeping tabs on the rain. With the first quarter of the year notching up 8¾ inches (22cm), the total, eight days short of six full months is 12¾ inches (32½cm) for a period over which the 15-year average is almost 16 inches (41cm).

The 14-year annual average, leaving out 2010 to date, is 38½ (98cm), so just as gardens require a good deal more rain in the second half of this year to avoid plant losses, so do statistics to maintain present averages.

Let us therefore keep our fingers crossed for good falls of rain during the coming summer nights and for sunshine during the days

Clive Bingley

EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL (update from March, as not included in last Newsletter!)

The annual **Litter Pick** on Saturday, 6 March was well supported by volunteers, who spent the morning around the village collecting all the roadside litter that had amassed over the winter. Thank you to everyone who came along to help and to Bridget Sugg and Hazel Clarke for providing refreshments.

The **Pavilion** is now available for hire for parties and meetings. The kitchen is fully equipped and the usual facilities are included. For a children's' party, the playground is adjacent and the field offers a safe play area for games, away from traffic.

Lesley Boucher and Cathy Bakewell, your District Councillors, are very concerned about the proposals

currently under discussion for the Eco-Urban Extension of Yeovil, as reported in the Western Gazette. They realize that there is a need for well-managed and regulated development in all villages in order to maintain the vibrancy and survival of these important communities, but they are opposed to the villages around Yeovil being 'swallowed-up' within the boundaries of Yeovil and becoming dormitories for the town. The proposals are still up for discussion and residents can be assured that their councillors will be fighting to maintain the essential character of the villages they represent.

There has been a warning from Dawn Haydon, Media & Communications Officer, SSDC, that there are **scam callers** pretending to be from local district council. The foreign accent tells residents that they have paid too much council tax and asks for bank account details for refunds to be sent. SSDC never asks for bank details over the phone, so end the call and ring SSDC on 01935 462462 if you are in doubt.

We have had no recent update on the management and repairs to **Rights of Ways** or who our council contacts will be. If you notice any local problems with routes, please contact the Parish Clerk, Pauline Gubbins (862062), or Barry Foot (862300), Michael Mead (863466), Heather Snook (474138), all Rights of Way committee, who will be able to help. Meanwhile, please take secateurs with you on your walks to cut back brambles, branches etc. before they grow too much!

With the onset of spring (at last), more people will be venturing out for walks. Dogs are the biggest worry at this time of year for farmers and their sheep and cattle. Ewes with young lambs are particularly vulnerable to an 'out-of-control' dog. Please keep your dogs on leads at all times – farm animals are being turned-out all the time and you and your dog may not notice their presence when you enter fields with footpaths. Above all, respect the Country Code, stay on the marked routes and bag and bin your dog's mess.

Enjoy the countryside, but respect the wildlife and do not allow dogs to 'hunt' through woodlands and hedges, disturbing birds that will be nesting there in the next few months.

The Parish Rights of Way Map is available, free, from the village shop or any parish councillor. Included are two suggested routes for scenic circular walks and a definitive plan of all rights of ways in the parish.

East Coker Parish Council (June 2010)

Hopefully, everyone will agree that the improved facilities at **The Pavilion** have benefited all users and sports' teams. The exterior woodwork will now need a 'makeover' and a **Voluntary Work Party** will plan to do this and other essential repairs/decoration in mid-August. This will be advertised in late July, and the Parish Council would be grateful for extra help for these tasks. Please find the time to support this.

The Parish Council will also be erecting a **barrier gate** to the entrance to the Pavilion Car Park, to prevent out-of-hours anti-social behaviour.

On Friday night, 18 June, **anti-social behaviour** caused the destruction of signs along the Coker Marsh/Pincushion Corner Road and Darvole Road and tyres were slashed on three vehicles at Darvole. The police have been notified, but if anyone saw or knows who was walking late that night along these roads towards Yeovil, information would be appreciated.

The management of **Public Rights of Ways** has now returned to Somerset County Council, with seven area Wardens across the county. East Coker is now included in Area 3, under the Wardenship of Peter Keenlyside. His contact number is: 0845 3459155 and email: rightsofway@somerset.gov.uk. His Senior RoW Officer is Peter Hoble, who can be contacted on the same numbers, and Sarah Litter is the Manager of RoW Maintenance and Development at County Hall.

The Parish Council has reluctantly decided that, on health and safety grounds and due to the increase in **dogs fouling** the Pavilion Sports' pitches, a three-month monitoring period will be followed by a decision whether to completely ban dogs, at all times, from the area. This follows increasing complaints from footballers and cricketers, who have to clean pitches before they can start games. Unaccompanied dogs and dogs off leads seem to be the main culprits and irresponsible owners who treat the pitches as a dog's toilet and do not clean up after their pets must be more considerate. A dog waste bin is provided.

EAST COKER OIL – PURCHASE SCHEME

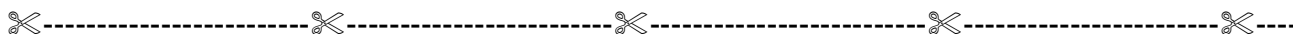
Dare we organise an oil purchase this quarter? In January we precipitated the coldest spell of weather for several decades, causing panic buying. In April we caused a volcanic eruption in Iceland with customers trapped overseas. What might happen this time? The oil company tells us this is the time of year for the best price; I must say that it hasn't dropped very far at the time of writing but we're talking about three weeks time. What we do is co-ordinate our orders for oil so that the supplier can deliver them in one trip to the village. This means his costs are reduced and we pay a lower price – this time last year the suppliers were falling over themselves and we saved about 4p per litre. Work it out.

The scheme operates as follows:

- You let me know how much oil you require, either as an absolute number of litres or as a minimum amount but fill the tank. Please note that officialdom decrees a minimum order quantity of 500 litres.
- I also need any special instructions like access requirements. I specify a standard four-wheeled tanker (not a mini) anyway because of the narrow lanes and tight corners in the village. The delivery drivers are resourceful and assume they can find and fill a tank in the customer's absence. You must tell me if this is not the case (eg locked gates or tanks)
- I collate the requirements and get the best price and a delivery date for so many thousand litres in so many drops.
- I give the supplier a list of names, addresses, phone numbers, quantities and any special instructions.
- I let everyone know the price, which is the same for everyone irrespective of quantity. I endeavour to tell everyone the delivery date.
- The supplier delivers the oil and invoices everyone individually.
- You pay the supplier directly.

To participate or with any questions, contact me, preferably by email (paulewards@waitrose.com) or 864413. Email makes it much easier to circulate information and I do not divulge email addresses. Let me know your requirements for July by 7:00 pm on Wednesday 14 July.

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



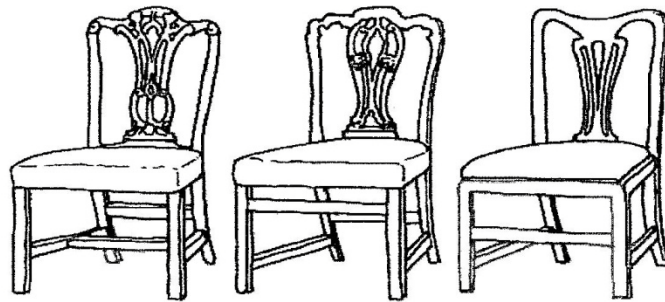
VILLAGE DIARY: JULY 2010 - OCTOBER 2010

Sat 03 July	Village Fete	East Coker Hall	2.00pm
Thurs 08 July	Gardening Club – Wildlife in Garden	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 10 July	Walk for Tiny Lives	The Pavilion	11.00am
Sat 10 July	Cream Tea – In aid of 'Colonaid'	Primrose Hill	2.00pm – 5.30pm
Mon 12 July	East Coker Players – BBQ	The Poplars	7.00pm
Thurs 15 July	Library		
Tues 27 July	Poetry Group – Inspired by Artists	The Helyar Arms	7.30pm
Fri 30 July	Coffee Morning – Yeovil Heartbeat	The Helyar Arms	10.00am – 12 noon
Sat 31 July	Coffee Morning – Sutton Bingham Church Roof Fund	Little Foxholes	10.00am – 12 noon
Sat 31 July	Scouts' Newspaper Collection	Near the School	9.00am – 10.30am
Thurs 05 Aug	Library		
Thurs 12 Aug	Gardening Club – English Cheese	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 21 Aug	East Coker Flower and Wine Festival	East Coker Hall	2.00pm
Thurs 26 Aug	Library		
Fri 27 Aug	Coffee Morning – Cancer Research	The Helyar Arms	10.00am – 12 noon
Sat 28 Aug	Scouts' Newspaper Collection	Near the School	9.00am – 10.30am
Mon 06 Sept	East Coker Players – Drama workshop	East Coker Hall	7.00pm – 9.00pm
Thurs 09 Sept	Gardening Club – Fuchsias	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Thurs 16 Sept	Library		
Tues 21 Sept	Last date for Copy for October Newsletter		
Fri 24 Sept	Coffee Morning – Nephrotic Syndrome	The Helyar Arms	10.00am – 12 noon
Sat 25 Sept	Goosey Fayre	Goose Slade Farm	
Sat 25 Sept	Scouts' Newspaper Collection	Near the School	9.00am – 10.30am
Tues 28 Sept	Poetry Group – East meets West	The Helyar Arms	7.30pm
Sat 02 Oct	Scouts' – Pub Olympics	Sonny's	7.00pm
Mon 04 Oct	The Players – Halloween Show Meeting	East Coker Hall	7.00pm
Wed 06 Oct	Harvest Supper	East Coker Hall	7.00pm – 7.30pm
Thurs 07 Oct	Library		

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in October 2010. 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 **Tuesday 21 September 2010**.

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



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