

# East Coker Society Newsletter



July 2011

Free Issue No 143

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## East Coker Society News

### 200+ EMAILS, BUT MORE PLEASE!

We have roughly 800 households in the village, yet only 210 have taken up the e-mail option. In asking for villager's co-operation it is stressed that:

- 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.

We 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 arise through illness and holidays etc.

### SUMMER!

Now that summer is hopefully upon us, please remember your neighbours and do not cut your lawns on a sunny weekend 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!

### VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY 2011 – PLEASE USE IT!

The 2011 Diary is now at The Stores, East Coker, and can be found in the shop – please ask. **It is vital that village organisations put their forthcoming events in the Diary to avoid the dates clashing.** Thank you.

## Speed limit signs – Parish Council meeting 13 July

The Parish Council will be voting on the proposals to introduce a 30mph limit in East Coker at its meeting on Wednesday 13 July.

The options are (1) that the signs should finish at Cemetery Hill (as originally proposed by Highways), (2) that the signs should finish at Coker Marsh (latest scheme agreed by Highways), (3) not to have any 30mph speed limit in the village.

If the speed limit is introduced, repeater signs would be placed around the village every 250m, with larger starter and finish signs.

Villagers are being canvassed for their opinions on the possible options, ahead of the Parish Council meeting, and forms for this are available at The Stores, Gooselade Farm and the East Coker Tea Rooms, with a plan showing the location of the proposed signs.

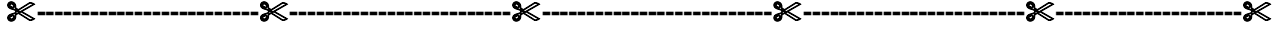
# Village Clubs and Organisations

## ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE WINTER FAYRE

**Saturday 19 November 2011, 2.00pm – 4.00pm at the East Coker 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 19 NOVEMBER 2011 – EAST COKER 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 VILLAGE FETE

By the time this Newsletter is published, the Village Fête will have taken place. Thank you to everyone who supported the Fete. In the next issue, we will set out details of the funding for all to see.

Kevin Chapman



**IAN CROSSLAND**  
4 The Green, Stoford, Yeovil, BA22 9UD

**Tel: 01935 411813**  
**Mob: 07811 070 498**

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## EAST COKER READING GROUP

We have two groups meeting once a month. The evening group meets in individual members' homes on the first Tuesday of each month and the daytime group usually meets in the East Coker Tea Rooms on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month.

We have recently been reading 'Fingersmith' by Sarah Waters, are now reading '84 Charing Cross Road' by Helene Hanff and will next be looking at 'The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox' by Maggie O'Farrell.

As the Library now charges Reading Groups a monthly fee we, in turn, charge a fee of 50p to each member.

If you are interested in joining either group or wish to have more details of what we do please contact Kevin Chapman on 07812726853 or 422594 or email [ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk)



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 WINE CIRCLE

For several years members of East Coker Wine Circle have put the village on the map with their many successes at Wine Festivals at all levels up to and including the National! But it was for a different reason that the East Coker team were given a tumultuous reception at the Wales & West Las Vegas theme evening in May. All dressed as show-girls, men too, in their basques and feathers; they failed to sneak into the hall unnoticed. As soon as they were spotted they were cheered and applauded to their table and literally dozens of photographers from Wales and the West Country Circles, as well as others from as far afield as Bolton, Luton, Peterborough and Nottingham all clamoured to capture a few pictures.

The team did not let down the Circle in the Wine Festival either, winning five trophies and a mass of placings. Joyce Pryor won individual trophies for red table sweet and after dinner white/golden and her entry in the Circle section gained first for table red sweet. Vince Wolny gained trophies for his fresh white dry grape and for most points in classes 29-34 (members only). David Pryor also gained seven placings from 11 entries, including a third place in a 70 bottle red table dry class. Terry and Mo Western, new members to the circle, were also placed and Ian Westaway and Chris Branson gained collars (wines worthy of final selection).

The Festival at Sand Bay, Weston-super-Mare, was a fantastically entertaining weekend, with professional entertainment and bands every night and wine and beer tastings during the day.

The Circle was 'on show' at the East Coker Village Fête earlier this month, offering free tastings of wines and liqueur and advice on wine making.

After a successful year which included a vineyard visit and tastings of wines, liqueurs and cider, the Circle will be hosts for its Summer BBQ on Sunday, 17 July, on the Vicarage Lawn, courtesy of the new vicar and his wife, Charles and Alison Hatton. Tickets are still available from the treasurer, Chris Branson on 863555.

Arrangements for the forthcoming programme are well on track and will include several commercial wine tastings and one on French wines and cheeses by the Circle's honorary member, who has lived in France for the past 20 years, John Craske. Guests and new members always welcome. E-mail for further information: [mail@eastcokerwinecircle.co.uk](mailto:mail@eastcokerwinecircle.co.uk) or visit our web site [www.eastcokerwinecircle.co.uk](http://www.eastcokerwinecircle.co.uk)

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### **EAST COKER CRICKET CLUB**

After winning promotion in 2010, East Coker CC is going from strength to strength, currently unbeaten in 2011 and sitting top of Division 6 in the Somerset League.

We are already planning the introduction of a 2nd XI for 2012 which will see even more cricket at Long Furlong Lane.

For full details and how to join the Club, please visit our website at [www.eccricket.org.uk](http://www.eccricket.org.uk) or come along to the ground on match days or each Wednesday evening.

In October 2011 we are planning a fundraising event. Anyone in the village who has apples can bring them to the ground where we will chop and press them into juice. The juice is fantastic, consumed as pressed, or even better if left a little longer and made into cider. More details will be available soon on our website.

Martin Kearvell

### **EAST COKER POETRY GROUP**

Tuesday 26 July – Bridport Poets Live

Bridport has a lively arts scene out of all proportion to the size of the town. We are fortunate to have several of the 'Bridport Poets' coming to East Coker. Should be a dynamic poetry happening.

All meetings will be at The Helyar Arms, East Coker and will start at 7.30 pm. Contact Group Co-ordinator David Cloke 862623 or Ian White 864206

## **EAST COKER WI**

We continue to attract new and interesting speakers, both amusing and informative. Our July speaker, Bill Petheram, who must be well known to all pet owners in East Coker, will be giving us an insight into his time as a local vet. August will be interesting, with members sharing their favourite recipes and in September we are holding an Open Evening with Bill and Merle Moore giving an insight into the making, life and sinking of the Mary Rose.

The monthly whist drives have now stopped until Thursday, 15 September. These always prove very popular and a pleasant way to spend an evening in a not too competitive manner.

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month at 7.30pm at the East Coker Hall.

Anyone wishing further information please contact Secretary Audrey Spurr. Tel. 862342

### **Diary dates**

Thursday 28 July	Bill Petheram	My life as a local vet	East Coker Hall 7.30pm
Thursday 25 August	Recipe Evening		East Coker Hall 7.30pm
Thursday 29 September	Mr and Mrs Moore	The Mary Rose	East Coker Hall 7.30pm
Thursday 27 October	AGM & Beryl Snaddon	The Theatre	East Coker Hall 7.30pm

## **EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

On Saturday 11 June, to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of The Royal British Legion and the 80th Birthday of the East Coker Branch, a Poppy Tea Party was held at The Manor, West Coker, by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. R Timmis. The Yeovil Mayor, Phillip Chandler, accompanied by his partner Linda Jones, opened the event.

Many thanks to those who provided the entertainment, Roy Hodder and his Accordion Band, and the Wyvern Jubilee Morris Men who gave two entertaining performances; D. J. Balloons for the balloon launch and Simon Wilson, thrilling the crowd with his aerobatic display in a Piston Provost, the fore-runner of the Jet Provost and used as a trainer in the RAF for many years.

Our thanks also to the many friends and members who not only helped to organise the event, but provided cakes and scones on the day. Our thanks also to so many who supported us on this very special occasion.

Prizes for the raffle were donated by Options Salon, Lanes Hotel, The Royal George, The Castle, The Bistro, Stuart Saunders and West Coker Garage, and our grateful thanks once again. Cream teas were served throughout the afternoon by a willing band of helpers and extra chairs and tables were transported by Bob Mead from East Coker.

The winners of the Poppy Hat competition were, Adults: Clifford Humphreys and Liz Koperdraad. Children: William & Ginny Bere.

The event raised almost £500 for the Royal British Legion for the support and welfare of our service personnel past/present and their dependants.

Note for your diary: Our Branch Coffee Morning at East Coker Hall is on Saturday 22 October 2011, 10.30am to 12 noon.

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

## **EAST COKER 400 CLUB**

The results of the Spring Draw are as follows: £100 Mr R Tower; £50 Mrs R Kilbee; £40 Mr A Leng; £30 Mr P Prichard; £20 Mrs C Mornement; £15 Mr T Kimpton; £10 Mr J Snook; £10 Mrs H Snook.

The annual subscription is £20 payable quarterly by Bankers Order if possible. There are four draws a year with cash prizes from £100 to £10 and donations to local charities or organisations are made twice a year.

Anyone wishing to join the 400 Club should please contact Gloria Mead 862364; Mary Ashley 862263; Arthur Rees 862828 or Mike Weston 862472

## EAST COKER PLAYERS

The Players held a successful, supper play evening in May. The Young Players did very well on what was their first stage performance as a group and the adults had a lot of fun with a prop that wouldn't open and a corpse that came alive.

It was disappointing that our audience was so small. Thank you to all who took part or helped behind the scenes.

Our next production will be on 2 and 3 December 2011. We are hoping to put on the Pantomime – Jack & The Beanstalk.

We are now looking for people to join the cast – no experience necessary.

If you would like to join us for this production (minimum age 8 years), we would love to hear from you. We start rehearsals in September on Monday and Wednesday evenings. There are plenty of opportunities to work behind the scenes if you don't fancy being on stage.

Membership is £5.00 Adults and £2.00 Children.

For more details contact Anne Hartley 862060 Hazel Giddings 429163

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## EAST COKER MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

So far this year the coffee mornings have been a great success so here is an update for the last two months.

In May, the Scouts put on a great event with delicious cakes and a table full of raffle prizes raising £273.14.

In June, the Motor Neurone Disease Association had a most successful morning after an amazing advertising campaign! The total was £701 which is the record so far. Due to careful planning by the organisers as the donations came in it was possible to work out that there were 105 people sharing coffee and cakes during the morning. This also is a record for the number of people attending since the start of these monthly events. A big thank you to all who attended.

Next month, on 29 July the charity will be Action Medical Research, followed by Project Atlas on 26 August and Leukaemia Research on 30 September. We look forward to seeing you all then.

If there is a charity which anyone would like to chose for a future event please contact either Cherry or Penny on the phone numbers below.

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313 Penny Marpole 863055

## **EAST COKER FLOWER SHOW & WINE FESTIVAL**

Just a quick reminder to all that on the 20 August 2011 East Coker Flower Show and Wine Festival is being held at the East Coker Hall from 2.00pm.

Schedules, including lists of the classes you can enter and entry forms will be available from The Village Stores, East Coker Tearooms and Gooselade Farm Shop and are free of charge. Entering classes is free but there is a small charge to visit the show on the day.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday 17 August. Hope to see you all there!

## **EAST COKER BULK OIL PURCHASE**

In the past the summer was the time to buy heating oil. I've been watching the oil price this year and it was at its lowest in February! Since then it's hovered between 55 and 60p/litre. I spoke to one supplier this afternoon and he doesn't expect it to get appreciably lower this summer. It also seems like a good time to get your boiler serviced to ensure it's at its most efficient. If it stinks, it probably needs it.

For anyone new to it, the scheme operates as follows:

- You let me know how much oil you require. If you want your tank filled, calculate how much you need and order 100 litres extra; the driver will stop when the tank is full. 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.

If you have already taken part and found it worthwhile, encourage your friends and neighbours to join in. There are now little cells in some parts of the village. The more we can order, the better the price.

To participate, or with any questions, contact me, preferably by email [pauledwards@waitrose.com](mailto:pauledwards@waitrose.com) or 864413. Email makes it much easier to circulate information and I do not divulge email addresses. The next order will be mid-July, so please let me know your requirements by 7:00 pm on Wednesday 13 July.

Paul Edwards

**Do It NOW – The More We Buy, The More We Save!**

## **EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB**

### **July to October Programme**

13 July	Visit to Castle Hill, near Barnstaple, home of the Earl and Countess of Arran. Palladian house in extensive C18th Grade 1 Landscape Park and garden.
14 July	Somerset NGS Gardens – Sarah Wilcox
11 August	Plants and Bees – Andy Willis
8 September	Fungi – Chris Cornell
22 September	Visit to RHS Garden Rosemoor
13 October	Owls R Us – Jo and Nigel Palmer

Monthly meetings are held in the East Coker Hall, Halves Lane, on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome. Further information from Catherine Denney, Hon. Secretary 862294 or Stan Shayler, Hon. Treasurer 420291.

**Thank you** – Our May Open Charity Evening raised over £800 for St Margaret's Hospice. The Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to its success.

## TIME TO SHARE

Well, what have we been up to since we last confessed to our goings-on?

Firstly the 'Secret World of Wildlife', based at Highbridge, gave us some fascinating insights into this secret world, bringing along a hedgehog, a smelly polecat, the cutest barn owl, showing off its wing-span of two feet, and the tiniest of bats.

The Easter Bazaar boosted funds by over £200, a most enjoyable afternoon, with quite a few fun activities running alongside the usual bric-a-brac, cake and provision stalls.

Mr Tinney hilariously describing his school days was so good that he ran over his time and no-one seemed to notice the delay in refreshments or raffle winning.

Tony and Margaret Robins, Alan Jones and Mervyn came along from the East Coker Short Mat Bowls Club to demonstrate the game, inviting members to 'have a go' as Wilfred Pickles might have said many years ago – was that his catch-phrase? Anyway quite a few took up the challenge and hopefully some will join their sessions at the East Coker Hall.

Much wanted rain threatened the Club's outing to Weymouth, but although the morning was a little cloudy the rain held off and the sun came shining through in the afternoon. An enjoyable day, with the transport costs being covered by the residue of several generous bequests the Club had received.

Mixed feelings about the next meeting on 20 June when we were to receive advice on 'continence' from a new local health service. As embarrassing and perhaps distasteful it might sound, we will all need to pay attention, as who knows when the advice will come in useful if maybe a little late already for some! Let us hope whoever gives the talk doesn't make us laugh too much.

We will be singing our favourite hymns at St Michael's on 4 July, finishing our half-yearly programme on 18 July with a themed garden party 'The Mad Hatters' at 27 Nash Lane, by kind invitation of Lois Crisp. That's all folks.

## Young People

### EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

**Autumn Jumble Sale** Saturday 15 October at East Coker Hall from 2.00pm. **REMEMBER WE WILL COLLECT.** Contact Max Bugler 862186

Jack Dudden & Ashley Glover would like to thank everyone for their generous support of the Coffee Morning held recently at the Helyar Arms. A total of £273 was raised for the Scout Jamboree Fund. Thank you also to Cherry and Penny for this fundraising opportunity and also the contribution from Monica's Garage Sale.

**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 30 July

Saturday 27 August

Saturday 24 September

### EAST COKER TEA-ROOMS

Penny, Ann, Marilyn 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](http://www.eastcokertearooms.co.uk) Telephone 863351



## EAST COKER PLAYGROUP

Children can join us from the age of 2½ and EYE 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. 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.

East Coker Playgroup is running Summer Holiday Session at The Pavilion, East Coker on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday morning, 9.00am to noon, £10.50 per session (EYE can be claimed if eligible). The dates for Summer Holiday Sessions are;

Tuesday 26 July 2011
Wednesday 27 July 2011
Thursday 28 July 2011
Tuesday 2 August 2011
Wednesday 3 August 2011
Thursday 4 August 2011
Tuesday 9 August 2011
Wednesday 10 August 2011
Thursday 11 August 2011
Tuesday 16 August 2011
Wednesday 17 August 2011
Thursday 18 August 2011

For more information on the Summer Holiday Sessions, the Playgroup and to put your child/children on the waiting list please contact Kay Strode on 07798 812540.

Find us on [www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk](http://www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk)

The Playgroup Summer Fair 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 6 November 2011 the Playgroup's next fundraising event is our annual Craft Fair. Stalls are available now; please contact Kay Strode on 07798812540 for information.

## The Churches

### ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

The Rev'd Charles Hatton writes: "I'm writing this the morning after the night before. In this case, the night before was my Licensing Service as Associate Priest in St Michael's by the Bishop of Taunton. Sandwiched between two days of rain, we enjoyed a wonderfully sunny evening which showed off the magnificent views of the countryside from the church door at their best.....much to the admiring comments of our friends who'd made the journey to be with us. It was heartening that so many from the 7 churches in the East and West Coker Benefices and the Christian Fellowship came together to fill the church. We greatly appreciated the welcomes extended to us by Kevin Chapman from the Christian Fellowship, Richard Powell from the school, as well as the Yeovil Deanery. The joyful ringing of the bells as we left the church seemed to summarise the mood of the occasion: it feels good to be here

My wife, Alison, and I have moved to East Coker from Salisbury, where I was Rector of the city-centre church for 11 years, and then an Associate Priest in a Benefice of 13 rural churches around Salisbury. Previously, I was responsible for 2 churches in Winchester and Communications Officer for the Winchester Diocese, having worked for 10 years prior to that for the Independent Broadcasting Authority in London. Our two daughters now being at University, the time seems right to take up a new role and we are delighted to be in East Coker. We have received a very warm welcome from so many and greatly look forward to getting to know people as we make our new home here."

## Services

Sunday 3 July	10.30am	Family leaflet	6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 10 July	8.00am	Holy Communion	10.30am	Sung Eucharist
Sunday 17 July	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	-	-
Sunday 24 July	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 31 July	TBA		6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 7 August	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 14 August	8.00am	Holy Communion	10.30am	Sung Eucharist
Sunday 21 August	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 28 August	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 4 September	10.30am	Pet Service	6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 11 September	8.00am	Holy Communion	10.30am	Sung Eucharist
Sunday 18 September	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 25 September	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	6.00pm	Evensong

**NB** We hope to continue with this pattern of services but they may have to alter. Please be patient!

### Service for those we have loved but see no longer.

At the time of writing details have yet to be arranged. It will possibly be on 30 October. Please see Church Magazine nearer the time or phone Monica on 862834.

## ALL SAINTS' CLOSOWORTH

### Services.

Sunday 10 July	6.30am	Evensong
Sunday 17 July	10.00am	Family Service
Sunday 24 July	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 14 August	6.30pm	Evensong
*Sunday 21 August	10.00am	Family Service
<i>*Please check with Monica, as this service depends on which children are on holiday</i>		
Sunday 28 August	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 11 September	6.30pm	Evensong
Sunday 18 September	10.00am	Family Harvest Festival
Sunday 25 September	9.00am	Holy Communion

For other services at Closworth please check with either Monica 862834 or Tim Glover

## EAST COKER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, BURTON LANE

**Weekly Meetings** Sundays 11.00am. 2nd Sunday of the month is a Family Service. 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. There are usually some 10-14 people present. Everyone is 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.

We also run a Home Group for anyone interested in discussing the Christian faith and there is a youth group meeting midweek for those between 18 and 30 years.

**Little Wheelers** is a mother and toddler group meeting in the East Coker Hall on a Tuesday morning from 10.30am until 12.00 noon.

Kevin Chapman is available from Tuesday to Friday. He can be contacted on 07812726853 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.

*'Unto Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen'* Ephesians, chapter 3, verses 20 and 21.

## ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SUTTON BINGHAM – 900<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

### Services

Sunday 3 July	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 17 July	11.30am	TBA
Sunday 7 August	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 21 August	11.30am	TBA
Sunday 4 September	9.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 18 September	11.30am	TBA

Churchwardens Carol Blackmore 862192

Heather Snook 474138

## Village News

### EAST COKER VILLAGE STORE AND FLORAL CORNER

During our time running the Store, we have realised that a village shop is so much more than somewhere to purchase that forgotten ingredient when doing some impromptu cooking or that birthday card which must be posted before 5 o'clock. We would like to remind you of some of those **FREE** services, which may go unnoticed but are important to so many people:

1. Supplying free publications such as the Blackmore Vale and the Visitor.
2. Providing directions so you receive that important package or visitor.
3. Displaying posters for charity or village events.
4. Selling tickets for village events eg. Harvest Supper.
5. Collection/Drop off point for forms and correspondence eg. Flower Show Schedule.
6. Holding place for the Village Diary to make sure group events don't clash.
7. Meeting place to catch up with fellow villagers.
8. Free newspaper and magazine reservations whether it be every day or just a weekend read.

Do you benefit from any of the above? Would you miss them if we were no longer here to provide them? Village shops are a dying breed – ask the people of East Chinnock and Barwick! Do you use the village store enough to avoid its extinction?

**East Coker Village Store** has evolved that little bit more – we have 'Floral Corner' our very own integrated florist. Elaine, the florist, will be with us each weekday morning to fulfil all your floral needs and even in her absence you can still order or purchase flowers during normal shop opening hours.

### WHAT MAKES FOR A VILLAGE?

What makes for a village, apart from a church and a pub, both of which are not appealing to all. The one focal point in a village that embraces all is the village shop, fast becoming extinct throughout the country. A village shop is the one place where all can communicate with one another, creating a sense of belonging - so important today.

We, in East Coker, can consider ourselves fortunate still to have a village shop. Paul, Vicki and their two daughters have happily settled here, keen to take part in village activities. As to whether they can remain in East Coker is dependent upon the support forthcoming from the community of East Coker, which unfortunately has not risen to expectations.

If the village shop means anything to you at all, before dashing away to your supermarket, first go down your shopping list, select everyday items, such as cereals, sugar, butter, tea, frozen food, to name but a few, and buy them from our village shop along with your newspaper, or even a bunch of flowers.

An added bonus, make contact with fellow villagers, put a smile on someone's face. But the bottom line is, without substantial support from the community of East Coker, we might not have a village shop to use next time the village is cut off from the outside world due to heavy falls of snow.

John Carter

## **GOOSEY\_FAYRE SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER – 12 NOON ONWARDS – FREE ENTRY**

We invite you to join us again for our annual **Goosey Fayre** celebrating Michaelmas. Plenty of fun for all the family, BBQ also serving goose sausages and burgers, fund-raising and craft stalls, bar and cream teas.

Shop opening hours are 10.00am – 6.00pm Tuesday to Saturday. Don't be put off by the weather if you fancy a Somerset cream tea or morning coffee, we now provide shelter on the patio.

We look forward to serving you soon.

The Dunnings, Goose Slade Farm Shop 863735

## **WESSEX MORRIS MEN**

The Wessex Morris Men will return to dance in East Coker on the evening of Monday 18 July from 7.30pm at the Helyar Arms. All welcome.

Paul Chesterman, Deputy Squire, Wessex Morris Men

## **SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY**

The mobile library visiting times and dates for the stops in 2011 are:

7 July                      28 July                      18 August

### **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
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## **IT'S CHILDSPLAY 2011**

The Rotary Clubs of Yeo Vale and Yeovil would like to express their thanks to all readers of this Newsletter who supported the 'It's Childsplay' charity walk in Nine Springs on Sunday 1 May. More than 80 people walked from East Coker, helping to make the event a great success. The number of people taking part was many times higher than last year and everyone spoken to had enjoyed a good walk and had the knowledge that they were helping to raise money for a very worthwhile cause.

Somerset's Children's' Hospice, based at Charlton Farm, Wraxall, south of Bristol, provides dedicated care to life-limited children and support for their families. Most of the support costs of £2.67m annually are raised by voluntary efforts.

Whilst further donations are still coming in, expectations are that the total amount raised will be in excess of £5,000. This is a fantastic result and will go a long way to bringing some comfort and support to children whose lives are so sadly limited.



## **SOMERSET CHAMBER CHOIR**

Somerset Chamber Choir with Emma Kirkby: Bach B minor Mass at Wells Cathedral. The Choir again perform with the world-renowned soprano (and choir Patron) Dame Emma Kirkby at Wells Cathedral on Saturday 30 July at 7.00pm. She will join the choir and a team of superb young soloists, Tim Mead, Nicholas Mulroy & Samuel Evans, the Baroque Orchestra Canzona and conductor Graham Caldbeck to perform Bach's Mass in B minor – considered one of the greatest pieces of choral music ever written.

Concerts of this calibre do not happen often in Somerset, so early booking is advised! Tickets priced £10-£28 are available from Taunton TIC 01823 336344 or online at [www.somersetchamberchoir.org.uk](http://www.somersetchamberchoir.org.uk)

## **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](http://www.somersetorganiclink.co.uk)

## **STAMPS FOR C.L.I.C. (Cancer & Leukaemia in Children)**

Thank you to the residents of East Coker for their used stamps. Please keep taking them into The Stores. They are then reused to make money for this charity which funds vital research. Vicki will accept them and Lesley Lindsay will take them to the shop.

Micky Hall

## **RAINFALL DURING THE SECOND QUARTER OF 2011**

*"Books, and my food, and summer rain  
Knocked on my sullen heart in vain"*

Thus Robert Louis Stevenson, writing a glum poem in a glum mood, which I am inclined to share when I contemplate the paucity of rainfall in the last three months. To begin with, April produced  $\frac{3}{8}$ in (.96cm); hardly much use, but at least it was three times as much as fell in April 2007  $\frac{1}{8}$ in (.32cm). May generated fierce winds and just under 2in (5cm) of rain, of which  $\frac{3}{4}$ in (1.90cm) fell overnight on the 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>. June was perhaps the most irritating of the three, with measurable rainfall on twenty of the thirty days, but in all instances except two (12 June,  $\frac{7}{8}$ in (2.22cm) and 16 June,  $\frac{1}{2}$ in (1.27cm)) none of the other eighteen mildly damp days could manage so much as  $\frac{1}{4}$ in (.64cm).

So the total for the quarter comes in at just under 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ in (14cm), making a half-year total rainfall of 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ in (31.75cm), which is no more copious than one-third of the annual average of the past fifteen years. My heart is indeed sullen in the matter!

Clive Bingley

## **EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL**

As reported in the last newsletter, elections for the East Coker Parish Council took place recently and the full complement of 13 councillors (including 2 from Wraxhill Ward) attended their first meeting on Wednesday 11 May. Let us hope that those of us who are new to this role will be able to make our contribution alongside the experienced councillors. Many of those councillors who retired had undertaken their duties for many years and we owe them a debt of gratitude for their achievements and for the time and energy they expended on behalf of the Parish.

At the meeting, our first task was to nominate Stan Shayler as the Chairman and Bridget Mead-Sugg and Binnie Bennett as Vice Chairmen. We also appointed Councillors to various Working Groups: - Planning, Rights of Way/Footpaths, Pavilion/Recreation Field. Helyar Almshouse Trust, Cemetery, Village Hall Committee, Internal Auditor, Tree Officer and Newsletter. Some of these involve actions and some merely representation on other groups.

At each meeting, District and County Councillors attend to give feedback from these two other local government groups. This liaison helps to give a more strategic overview and ensures that the needs of the Parish Council are supported by the other governance structures. Currently, some of our representatives are meeting with Councillors from neighbouring Parish Councils to compare problems and concerns. The consensus is that the Proposed Urban Extension is unnecessary and current and past Councillors continue to work to oppose the initiative.

The main agenda items at this time include the ongoing upkeep of the Pavilion and Recreation Field, the ongoing variety of planning applications, and general administration of the funds accrued from the precept.

It is hoped that there will soon be a resolution to the potential 30 mph speed limit through the village. This issue has been considered by the Parish Council for some considerable time. The decision was deferred to the July meeting so councillors could assess the impact of the signage required by Somerset County Council for implementation of the scheme. All councillors have a copy of the plan if parishioners need any information.

At each meeting, there is a range of general notices from other groups, many of which are inviting Councillors to attend training or liaison meetings with local, district or county organisations. New Councillors will attend training in the near future and that should help us to better understand our responsibilities.

At our second meeting in June, we introduced ourselves and explained our particular expertise and interests and hopefully we will be able to continue to support the range of village initiatives as in the past, whilst encouraging new developments to respond to community priorities. If you would like to find out more or make comments, please contact Pauline Gubbins, Parish Clerk on 862233 clerk@eastcokerpc1.wanadoo.co.uk or Stan Shayler on 420291 stanleyshayler@aol.com. All Council meetings are open to the public and take place in the Pavilion, Long Furlong Lane at 7.00pm on the second Wednesday of the month.

### **Would you like an allotment in East Coker?**

I am a Trustee of Somerset Community Food, a charity set up 10 years ago to educate local people in nourishing themselves by growing, sharing and cooking food. We manage a Lottery funded project, Somerset Land and Food, which aims to bring together those with land and those wanting to use land for food production. In some parts of the county, the local Parish Councils have helped in accessing allotments for local residents. In other areas, this has been done independently by those wanting to grow produce.

**It would be good to know if there are local people looking for land/allotment space in East Coker. This could be individuals or community groups wanting to work together to grow food. If you are keen, or you know other people who may want this, please can you let me know or write to the East Coker Parish Council or tell any councillor. I can be contacted at kath.wilson@sky.com or on 475029 and Pauline Gubbins is the Parish Council Clerk at clerk@eastcokerpc1.wanadoo.co.uk or on 862062 between 9.00 – 4.00pm.**

At this time, we do not know if it would be possible to find land for this purpose, but unless we are aware of a need, then there is no point in proceeding, so it is important to please make contact.

Somerset Community Food recently held a conference for South Somerset District Council area and I enclose my notes on the proceedings below.

We got off to a strong start when Paul Robathan, Chair of South Somerset Together (SST) the local strategic partnership, gave a supportive keynote address talking of the benefits of partnership working and offering the support of SST. This strategic view was then admirably followed by three examples of good practice where local people are actually undertaking the ideals we are aiming to spread. Martin Bliss, the Farm Manager from the Magdalen Project talked of the challenges agriculturally and commercially of growing food organically; Ian McNab and Cara Naden told us excitedly of the benefits for the landowner (Ian) and the growers (represented by Cara) who are utilizing Digger's Field in Langport; Simon Larkins, Gardens and Parks Manager for South Somerset National Trust enthusiastically explained the benefits for both his organisation and the growers now using allotments created at Lytes Cary.

Workshops further developed these themes and included ideas on looking for land; information for landowners considering offering the use of their land; planning and growing on a small allotment; selling excess produce; a splendid tour of Magdalen Farm with its organic philosophy and breathtaking scenery. Allan Cavill, South West representative of the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners has much experience in supporting groups to set up allotments and his input was very valuable, as was information from a range of other professionals who attended.

Beth Prince from Somerset Waste Partnership discussed aspects of minimising food waste and the benefits of composting, whilst Katherine Crouch answered questions on vegetable growing and Richard Spalding, Senior Lecturer in Human Geography at University West of England Bristol related food production to social change. A photo taken at the turn of the century showed Bristol market gardeners as a group of stern-faced men – a far cry from the group represented at the conference who now include young and old of both genders from every walk of life.

It was agreed that the day had achieved its aims in a superb setting with excellent company and food. We now hope to replicate it in the other areas of Somerset and spread the word even further.

There are other aspects of the project, including the creation of a skills-sharing database, where those with skills and those looking to gain skills can pool resources. We are also offering a 'Technical Assistance Fund' up to £2500 to groups or individuals setting up or developing growing projects. For more details please contact Kath Wilson (details above) Linda Hull or Hannah May of Somerset Land and Food on 01749 678770 or at [www.somersetcommunityfood.org.uk](http://www.somersetcommunityfood.org.uk)

Kath Wilson

## **EAST COKER PRESERVATION TRUST**

A public meeting in East Coker Village Hall on 30 June was attended by over 200 residents to hear an update on the SSDC's Draft Core Strategy and to discuss the impact on all aspects of life in the village and parish of the potential development of 3,700 houses and an associated industrial estate in the area south of Yeovil adjacent to East Coker.

A lively session of questions and discussion demonstrated a strong determination in the village to oppose major development which would detrimentally affect the historical, cultural and agricultural heritage of East Coker. Ultimately, a full-scale legal challenge to the Council's plans will be made, if necessary.

Concern was expressed that South Somerset District Council was failing in its statutory role to act as a Rural District council – its thinking was dominated by its vision to grow Yeovil at the expense of all consideration for the local rural environment and economy.

Strong opinions were stated that it would be illogical to plan to build housing and industrial property over Grade 1 agricultural land when recent research shows that there is an urgent need for the nation to become self sufficient in food production by 2050.

There was discussion of the timetable for further consideration of the Council's strategy leading to an eventual determination by HM Planning Inspectorate, expected to be in late 2012. A summary of the timetable is shown below (subject to adjustment).

If anyone wants information about the threat to East Coker, or has suggestions for gaining wider support for our case, please contact one of the Trust members. Opportunities for fund raising and donations to support the Trust's work should be addressed to the Treasurer, Richard Vanderpump.

## **SSDC CORE STRATEGY TIMETABLE**

July 2011	Area South workshop on updated Draft Core Strategy Including presentation of "responses matrix" (4/7/11)
October 2011	Formal recommendations to Area Committees
December 2011	Formal recommendations to District Executive and Full Council
January 2012	Publication Plan incorporating agreed changes
Feb/March 2012	Consultation on published plan – 6 weeks
April 2012	Plan and representations submitted to HM Planning Inspector
June/July?? 2012	Examination by HM Planning Inspector
October ?? 2012	HM Planning Inspector's report
End 2012	Consideration of report and adoption by Council ???

## **ECPT Contacts:**

Joe Coles 863146	Martyn Sowerbutts 863313	Richard Vanderpump 864565
John Fysh 863963	Amelia Bennett 423894	Peter Woodford 863633

<http://eastcokerpreservationtrust.blogspot.com/>

<http://saveeastcoker.com>

Martyn Sowerbutts

## FRAILITY OF BEAUTY BY JIM MCCUE

As I write, the outlook for East Coker is grim. South Somerset District Council appears to be prepared to authorise new building in and around the village on a scale and of a kind incommensurate with the present rural way of life. Effectively, the village will become a suburb of Yeovil. After six centuries and more, East Coker as an autonomous village will cease to exist.

Many readers of this newsletter will be seeing bulldozers and builders' lorries in their back yards. As a Londoner, I shall not. I have visited the village only twice, and it may be said that if South Somerset District Council wants to foul its own nest, it is none of my business. Yet as the joint editor (with Christopher Ricks) of a forthcoming edition of T. S. Eliot's *Poems*, I feel intensely and inescapably involved.

For to me, as to hundreds of thousands of readers since 1940, "East Coker" means primarily *East Coker*, the poem of resignation and resistance which Eliot published in March of that momentous year. My involvement is professional in that I am lucky enough to be paid to study this great poetry, but my sense of attachment to this place goes back thirty years, to when at 17 I first read the poem, wondered at its elusive, meditative tone, and realised that the village symbolized for Eliot something profound about his past and his sense of belonging to and in England.

Appeals will be heard, no doubt, about the inappropriateness of building on prime agricultural land, about the destruction of rare wildlife and flora, about encroachment on Grade 1 listed buildings, and about the necessity for such development at all in a time of recession and an area where jobs are hard to find. But the appeal of Eliot's poem is to the heart, to history and to human value.

*East Coker* was written during the early months of the Second World War, the period known as the phoney war because for most British people military engagement had yet to begin in earnest. Eliot, though, had lived through the years of the Great War and had closely followed the Versailles Conference of 1919, which aimed to make further conflict impossible. He had lived through the boom of the 1920s and the moral and financial bust of the 1930s. As a publisher and editor, he had opened literary communications between European countries, but now he knew that, whichever way the war might go, Europe had lost the peace.

In *East Coker* he records details of "the village, in the electric heat / Hypnotised":

In a warm haze the sultry light  
Is absorbed, not refracted, by grey stone.  
The dahlias sleep in the empty silence.  
Wait for the early owl.

This is recalled from the occasion of a visit, but might have been observed at any time over centuries. Another description, though, is specific to a particular moment:

What is the late November doing  
With the disturbance of the spring.....  
Late roses filled with early snow?

The November in question was 1938, the month of Kristallnacht in Germany, when in England temperatures reached a record-breaking 70F, after which snow fell from 17th December until Christmas. The weather appeared to be out of joint, a portent of chaos in nature

that shall bring  
The world to that destructive fire  
Which burns before the ice-cap reigns.

Soon enough, the destructive fire of the Blitz would be raging in many of Britain's cities, especially London, where for many a night Eliot acted as a fire-watcher.

In the face of the obliteration of so much that he had worked to promote, Eliot felt that the interwar years had been "Twenty years largely wasted", and the poem repeatedly finds the chilly consolation that "The poetry does not matter", "here and now cease to matter", "Here or there does not matter". Yet the intensity of the writing belies the thought that any of these things is neither here nor there.

On the contrary, the closing lines tell us,

We must be still and still moving  
Into another intensity  
For a further union



--before the very final words, "In my end is my beginning", return us to the very first, "In my beginning is my end". Everything is to be begun again and reconsidered. And as we read the poem (and the landscape) with deeper understanding, we can see, not resignation and surrender, but the resilience of the "here" and the "now".

Britain's freedom was spared, at enormous cost, during the Second World War, and its values were reasserted across liberated Europe. The three wartime *Quartets*, of which *East Coker* is the first, were T. S. Eliot's greatest contribution to the war effort. Immediately popular, they expressed for many people a spirit in the nation, and in the English-speaking alliance, that was worth fighting and dying for. This little Somerset village, previously familiar to very few, became known throughout the world, much as Rupert Brooke's Granchester and Wordsworth's Grasmere had become known before. It represented, and still represents, the frailty of beauty.

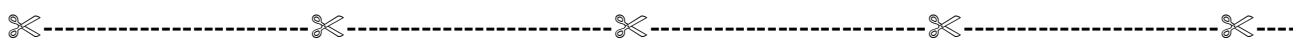
Visiting East Coker this summer to see for myself the area threatened with development, I was astonished by how many fields are to be covered with houses (and an industrial estate), and how severely the village is to be hemmed in, with its vistas and views ruined or curtailed. The case against desecrating this precious place ought to be evident to anyone who visits. If *this* is not worth saving from suburban sprawl, then which corner of England should be spared?

If it is destroyed, this landscape can never be repaired or replaced. To destroy it would be a crime not only against its own long-cherished beauty, but also against the value of humility, which Eliot insisted, seventy years ago, "is endless". The chances of turning the tide of destruction may look as slim now as they did in 1940, but we must fight on.

Jim McCue, 30 June 2011

#### NEXT ISSUE

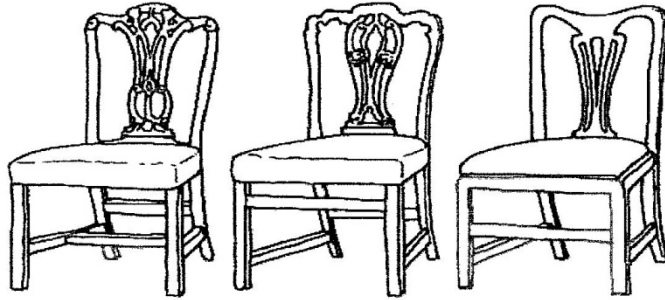
The next issue of the Newsletter will be in October 2011. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or e-mail [l.lindsay@eastcoker.com](mailto:l.lindsay@eastcoker.com) or to The Stores, East Coker by Friday 23 September 2011



## VILLAGE DIARY: JULY 2011 – SEPTEMBER 2011

Thurs 7 July	Library		
Wed 13 July	Parish Council Meeting – 30mph	The Pavilion	7.30pm
Wed 13 July	Gardening Club - visit		
Thurs 14 July	Gardening Club – Sarah Wilcox	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sun 17 July	Wine Circle – BBQ	Vicarage Lawn	
Mon 18 July	Wessex Morris Men	The Helyar Arms	7.30pm
Tues 26 July	Poetry Group – Bridport Poets	The Helyar Arms	7.30pm
Thurs 28 July	W I - Bill Petheram	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 29 July	Coffee Morning – Action Medical Research	The Helyar Arms	10.00am -12 noon
Sat 30 July	Scouts' Newspaper Collection	Near the School	8.30am - 10.30am
Thurs 11 Aug	Gardening Club – Plants & Bees	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Thurs 18 Aug	Library		
Sat 20 Aug	Flower Show & Wine Festival	East Coker Hall	2.00pm
Thurs 25 Aug	W I – Recipe Evening	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 26 Aug	Coffee Morning – Project Atlas	The Helyar Arms	10.00am -12 noon
Sat 27 Aug	Scouts' Newspaper Collection	Near the School	8.30am - 10.30am
Thurs 8 Sept	Gardening Club – Fungi	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Thurs 22 Sept	Gardening Club – Visit RHS Rosemoor		
Sat 24 Sept	Gooselade Farm Shop - Goosey Fayre		From 12 noon
Sat 24 Sept	Scouts' Newspaper Collection	Near the School	8.30am - 10.30am
Thurs 29 Sept	W I – Talk on the Mary Rose	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 30 Sept	Coffee Morning – Leukaemia Fund	The Helyar Arms	10.00am -12 noon

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