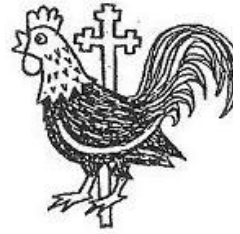


East Coker Society Newsletter



JULY 2013

Free Issue No 151

Chair: John Sugg	863435	
Secretary: Sarah Owen	862218	
Treasurer: Martin Wells	864198	
Newsletter Editor: Lesley Lindsay	862868	l.lindsay@eastcoker.com

East Coker Society News

'DISCOVER EAST COKER' – WALKING PACK

A new 'Discover East Coker' pack which includes photographs, details about places of interest, a detailed map and five fully researched walks supplied in a plastic wallet is available for £2 from the following outlets:

East Coker Village Store	The Forester's Arms
East Coker Tea Rooms	The Helyar Arms
Goose Slade Farm Shop	The Yeovil Court Hotel
Butchers & Post Office, West Coker	Yeovil Tourist Information Centre
St Michael's Church Bookstall	Cartgate Tourist Information Centre

We hope residents and visitors will use this guide to explore our beautiful parish.

Condolences – The Society is saddened by the loss of two great supporters – Robert Allwood last year, and Ann Lewis earlier this year.

We will all remember Robert for the magnificent support he gave to the East Coker Hall from the fund-raising to building phase, and continual organisation of maintenance right up until his later ill-health. He was also a mine of information about the history of the village, and gave numerous lectures over the years.

Ann Lewis also helped the Society in many ways. She was always present at the Winter Fayre, beavering away in the kitchen with the teas. Her presence at the Mill, tending her sheep is missed by us all.

BOOK NOW FOR THE WINTER FAYRE

Saturday 16 November 2013, 2.00pm – 4.00pm at East Coker Hall

Tables for the Winter Fayre are now 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 (made payable to East Coker Society) **by Saturday 12 October** to Sarah Owen, Paddock Cottage, East Coker, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 9JP 01935 862218. This will ensure your stall is reserved.

✂-----✂-----✂-----✂-----✂-----✂-----✂-----✂-----
WINTER FAYRE SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2013, 2.00pm – 4.00pm – EAST COKER VILLAGE HALL

Name of Organisation.....

Type of Stall.....

Contact Name.....

Telephone Number.....email.....

Size of table @ £2 per foot..... enclosed £.....Signed.....

NEW TREASURER

At the East Coker Society AGM on 7 May 2013, Martin Wells was elected as Treasurer. All other Committee Members were re-elected. Keith Helliard had decided to step down from the position of Treasurer this year after 12 years of service. We are most grateful to Keith for producing the accounts and assisting with the running of the Society's events over this long period.

VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY – PLEASE USE IT!

The 2013 Diary is now at the Stores, East Coker, and can be found in the shop – please ask. **Please put forthcoming village events in the Diary to avoid dates clashing.** Thank you.

BONFIRES

Please consider your neighbours before having a bonfire in the middle of the day, especially if it is a rare and beautiful summer's day. Late afternoon allows washing to be dried as well as a sit in the sun without having to retreat indoors from bonfire smoke and falling ash.

Village Clubs and Organisations

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER

At the end of April, the Branch held its Annual Cheese & Wine Evening. The attendance was very poor, although we did raise £130, and those who were there enjoyed themselves. It was such a special occasion, as three of our long serving Poppy Appeal collectors received awards: Gloria Mead and Catherine Denney (50 years) and Jean Kelly (34 years). Christine Mead (50 years) was unable to attend, and will be presented with her award at a later date.

Just to clarify, some people are confusing the RBL with Help for Heroes, who do work closely with us in providing funding for capital and other projects, one of which is the Battle Back Centre at Lilleshall in the West Midlands. The Legion has also committed £27million to this project over the next 10 years, and another £23million for the running of five Personnel Recovery Centres in various parts of the country, with additional funding from Help for Heroes and other service charities.

Further RBL funding in 2012 – £22million was spent in the running of Care Homes & Break Centres, £18.2million awarded to 25,300 beneficiaries through grant giving, another 589 people received Employment Grants totalling £748,990 through the Legion Civvy Street Programme, and the 'Be the Boss' scheme provided 96 business set-up loans.

Yes – Help for Heroes has highlighted the current conflicts in the world, and with the help of our supporters we will continue to provide after-support for the future as we have done for the past 90 years. There are over 10 million people who are entitled to call on the RBL for help.

Perhaps the Legion's marketing has not been as slick as Help for Heroes, but things are changing; please take time to look at our website www.britishlegion.org.uk Like most charities (all of which are for worthy causes), we are going through difficult times raising funds. We thank you all for your continued support.

Note for diaries – Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning. Saturday 5 October, 10.00am – 12.00pm, East Coker Hall.

'Shoulder to shoulder with all who serve'

David Holland, Chairman 86278; Secretary Marilyn Smith 863944

ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

Following the success of our Ladies Lunch last year, we are holding another one this year on Friday 11 October. The Diva Lunch will be held at The Tithe Barn, Haselbury Mill, near Crewkerne at 12 noon.

Tickets are £30 each, including a two-course lunch, a glass of fizz on arrival, entertainment and a Fashion Show.

Tickets are available from www.action.org.uk/diva_lunch or Jane Donnelly 478409

TIME TO SHARE

We have had a lovely three months, and regularly have over 40 members enjoying a happy hour or two together. The highlight was our outing in June, when the coach broke down an hour from home! In usual Time to Share style, we made the most of it and in the end had a wonderful day.

Here is our Programme for the next three months. We meet every other Monday in the East Coker Hall at 2.30pm. Contact Sandra Snelling 862162 for details.

15 July – Living with the Boss - Margaret Adams
5 August – My Life - Maureen Shaw
9 September – AGM and Bring and Buy – All Members
23 September – Outing - Fish and Chips at Shepton Mallet and then on to Cheddar, 11.00am – 5.30pm.

29 July – Flower Arranging - Christine Mead
19 August – Medieval Music - Jonathan Weekes

EAST COKER READING GROUP

We have two Groups meeting once a month. The evening group (currently nine members) meets in individual members' homes for about two hours (usually) on the first Tuesday of each month. The daytime group (currently five members) has been meeting for about one hour in the East Coker Tea Rooms on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month (but the venue may have to change and meetings dates do vary to accommodate members' other commitments). As the Library now charges Reading Groups a monthly fee, we, in turn, charge a fee of 50p per month to each member.

If you are interested in joining either group or wish to have more details of the books we read and what we do, please do contact Kevin Chapman on 07812726853 or 422594 or email ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk

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EAST COKER SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

The Bowls Club meets every Tuesday evening 7.30pm - 9.30pm and Friday afternoons 2.30pm - 4.30pm in the East Coker Hall.

We are a friendly club and are looking for experienced and new players to join us. Tuition can be given to those wishing it, and bowls can be provided for your initial practice. Why not come and see for yourself. There is no age limit for adults.

We also have a junior section, and are looking for young players of any age up to 18.

For information regarding the junior section, please contact Mervyn Westlake 863227. For other information, call George Dudden 864222.

D Farrant – Club Chairman

EAST COKER MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

The coffee mornings in April and May were well supported and generated £175 and £270 for Contact and Shelter Box respectively.

The next coffee mornings will be:

- St Margaret's Hospice 26 July (followed by optional village walk, organised by Charlotte at the Forester's)
- Cancer Research 30 August
- CLIC 27 September

Please come along to the Forester's Arms and give your support to these deserving causes.

Many thanks to Charlotte and all the staff at the Forester's for the support they give to these popular village get-togethers.

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313 Penny Marpole 863055

EAST COKER PLAYERS

The Players would like to thank everyone involved in our last play production and to our audiences for your positive feedback. The young players learnt a lot from Ian White the director, whilst enjoying themselves at rehearsals.

As a group, we have made a decision to replace the stage lighting system over the next year. This will involve some serious fundraising. We hope to obtain a grant for some of the cost. The Pantomime and a Christmas bingo in December will kick us off.

This year's Pantomime will be 'Dick Whittington', which we last performed in 1992. The dates for your diary are Friday 29 November and Saturday 30 November 2013.

For this production, we need some more adult cast, but all are welcome. Minimum age is 8 years. Rehearsals begin Monday 2 September at 7.00pm in the Dampier Room.

Backstage or front of house help is also required. If you would like to join the pantomime or just help, please contact us,

Anne Hartley 862060. Hazel Giddings 429163.

EAST COKER FLOWER SHOW AND WINE FESTIVAL

Saturday 17 August 2013, 2.00pm East Coker Hall – Admission £1; Children free.

Children's classes

5 years and under – Cut and stick picture; Animal made from fruit & vegetable; Pair of gingerbread people; Finger painting.

6 to 10 years – Dough/plasticine model; Flower arrangement in a mug; 4 Home-made cupcakes; A scene in a shoe box; A robot.

11 to 15 years – 4 Cupcakes presented in a box; Fruit/vegetable dragon; Picture of my house (not a photograph); A photograph of my friend.

Photography classes:

Over the gate; Activity; Steps/stairs; Weather; Flowers; A group of four photos of East Coker.

Plus many more classes, schedules available from local outlets.

Sarah Rashley

EAST COKER 400 CLUB

The Spring Draw results – £100 Mrs Olive Sharman; £50 Mrs A. Davidge; £40 Mrs Val Whittock; £30 Mr Russell Chatwin; £20 Mr C. Bingley; £15 Mr J. Mornement; £10 Cdr J. White.

The 400 Club has been pleased to send a cheque for £250 to CLIC Sargent (the Children's Cancer Charity).

If anyone would like to join the 400 Club, the annual subs are £20, payable quarterly by banker's order.

Please contact Gloria Mead 862364; Mary Ashley 862263; Arthur Rees 862828; Mike Weston 862472.

EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

At the time of writing, June already, the Solstice nearly upon us, and time for another update for the East Coker Society Newsletter. Club members have been kept busy during the last few months. In April, we were given a world tour by Lady Skelmersdale, and discovered where many of our garden plants originated. In May, we learnt from Gill Hazell, of Great Western Gladiolus, about the various types of gladioli and how best to grow them. We were also given some tips on how to show gladioli. At the June meeting, David Hitchcock of Three Counties Nurseries in Bridport gave a talk on the various types of aquilegias, and gave very clear instructions on how to grow them, stressing the need to read the instructions on the seed packet to ensure that the seeds germinate!

Members have enjoyed several trips over the last few months, and have a few more to look forward to. The club holiday, based in Torquay, was a great success, with good weather and good company. Places visited included Cotehele, Buckland Abbey, Coletton Fishacre (home of the D'Oyly Carte family) and Greenway, to name a few. The gardens were beautiful with magnolias, camellias and spring flowers, all giving a marvellous display. Members are now looking forward to the 2014 holiday. In May, several members had an evening at Picket Lane Nursery, where Neil Lovesey gave a conducted tour of his nursery. This was followed by a carvery at the Coach and Horses in South Perrott. Trips yet to come over the next few months include The Larmer Tree Gardens, Wilton House, Highgrove and Newton Surmaville House. Let us hope that these visits are blessed with good weather.

A very successful morning was had at the plant stall at the St Michael's Spring Fair and Plant Sale on Saturday 11 May at Hope House (formerly Bubspool House). Although fairly chilly, the weather held until 11.00am, when the heavens opened and we got drenched. At the end of the morning, we totted up our takings and were delighted that we had raised a fantastic £70. Thank you to all who donated plants, helped on the stall, and who purchased the plants.

The members' competition this year will be to grow a fabulous begonia (the plants and growing medium kindly supplied by The Gardens Group). The judging for this normally takes place at the August meeting – just in time for the East Coker Flower Show!

If you are not already a member, why not join us for one of our evenings? Always an enjoyable, sociable evening, with the added bonus that we learn something new each month. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, commencing at 7.30pm in the East Coker Hall, Halves Lane. For further information, please contact Helen Styles 862447 or Stan Shayler 420291.

Programme for July - October

11 July	Bees in a Domestic Garden – Margaret O'Neill
8 August	Club Competition and History of the Cottage Garden – Neil Lovesey
12 September	South Somerset National Trust Gardens – Simon Larkin
10 October	Permaculture and a Small Garden – Patrick Whitehouse

EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

Saturday 27 July – Poetry Picnic, 6.30pm at The Vicarage – Note this is a Saturday. Bring a picnic for an evening of poetry in the garden of the Vicarage at East Coker. Poetry from the Fountain Group at Wells. Please **RSVP** via our contact details below by 20 July, as we need to know the numbers attending.

Tuesday 27 August – The Fox Inn Open Evening, 7.30pm at The Fox Inn, Corscombe, Dorset. For a change we thought we would have a new setting for this Summer event. The Fox Inn at Corscombe has

re-opened this year after a refurbishment and with new management, and it is a really good venue for our Summer poetry meeting.

We have (reluctantly) to charge £2 entrance for any meetings at The Helyar Arms, East Coker.

Our 'Forthcoming Events' are also available on our website www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk Contact details email info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk or phone David Cloke 862623.

THE EAST COKER BULK OIL PURCHASE SCHEME

42 of us topped very enthusiastically in January to the tune of 31,000 litres and at a very good price. Summer is the time to fill up and at the time of writing, 20 June, the price is about the same as this time last year, so don't miss it.

As I've said before, the scheme is a great benefit to those who order less than 1000 ltrs. In January, larger orders saved almost 2p per ltr over quoted prices for 1000+ltrs and smaller orders (the majority) almost 4p over the price for less than 1000 ltrs. So we all helped each other and even saved fuel for the tanker. Before you ask, we just do the donkey-work; collating the requirements, ringing round the suppliers and placing the order and you pay the supplier directly. Please note that with some suppliers the delivery note is also the request for payment and there may be a surcharge if you don't pay promptly. If you have already taken part and found it worthwhile, encourage your friends and neighbours to join in. The more we can order, the better the price.

To participate or with any questions contact me, preferably by email pauleddwards@waitrose.com or 864413. Email makes it much easier and quicker to circulate information and I do not divulge email addresses. I circulate an email reminder before co-ordinating each order. Let me know your requirements by 7:00 pm on Wednesday 17 July. Please do not ring and ask what the price will be. I will not know it until I have collated the requirements and rung the suppliers.

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EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

As East Coker Wine Circle closes another successful year, having had a variety of wine and beer tastings as well as varied speakers, the Committee has planned more of the same for the coming year.

The new programme begins on Wednesday 7 August with a commercial wine tasting presented by Majestic Wines, 'Chilean versus Argentinian'. This will be followed on 4 September by a talk and tasting, 'Bibulous Journey from Orange to Macon' by Hugh Poultney. Wednesday 2 October promises to be a thought-provoking evening with a wine tasting 'with a difference'.

Fruity, floral, fabulous drinks that make drinking a more creative experience all round will be presented on Wednesday 6 November by the Bloom Berry company. Bringing the year to close will be a talk and tasting by Longman Cheeses, North Cadbury on Wednesday 2 December. There will also be the traditional bread-making competition, followed by a bread and cheese supper on this evening.

New members and guests are always welcome. The Circle meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the East Coker Hall from 8.00pm unless otherwise stated. All fully paid up members (only £12 annual subscription) receive all tastings free.

The Circle is introducing a frequent wine forum for those dedicated to winemaking and for those wishing to learn about the art.

For further information call 863838 or visit our web site: www.eastcokerwinecircle.co.uk.

Diary dates

Sunday 14 July	BBQ lunch plus fun! – Entry by ticket only – The Vicarage
7 August	'Wine under a Tenner' tasting by Yapps of Mere
Saturday 17 August	East Coker Wine Festival, East Coker Hall 2.00pm
4 September	Bibulous Journey from Orange to Macon by Hugh Poultney – commercial tasting.
2 October	Wine Tasting 'With a Difference!'
6 November	Tasting by Bloom Berry
2 December	Longman Cheeses, North Cadbury, bread-making competition, bread and cheese supper.

EAST COKER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The W.I. is in the process of attracting younger members of the community as well as retired ladies, giving them the chance to hear interesting, informative and thought provoking talks. There are more opportunities for extra activities, other than the monthly meetings, for both social times and travel. By the time this letter is distributed, members will have enjoyed a visit to Bristol Blue Glass Centre in Bedminster followed by lunch and a trip round the harbour by boat.

At the next meeting, in July, we are learning about the art of quilting, and in August we hear about the 'Grumpy Old Men' that William Shakespeare dreamed up. September gives members the opportunity to visit Burns the Bread, the Baker, in Glastonbury, and later in the month we are holding an 'Open Evening' with a light hearted look at King Henry VIII, when all are welcome.

The Autumn Whist Drives recommence on Thursday, 19 September.

For any other information, please contact secretary Ruby Rollo, 475010

Diary dates

Thursday 25 July	The Art of Quilting	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 29 August	Will's Grumpy Old Men	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Wednesday 11 September	Burns the Baker	7.00pm	Glastonbury
Thursday 19 September	Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 26 September	Open Evening - Good King Hal	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 17 October	Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 31st October	The World of Ghosts	7.30pm	East Coker Hall

SAVE EAST COKER

The public examination of SSDC's Proposed Local Plan, which currently includes the Yeovil Sustainable Urban Extension within the East Coker Parish, finally completed on 18 June.

The Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State has conducted a thorough examination of the Plan which started on 7 May. It is the Inspector's task to test the legality and soundness of the Local Plan.

Well-evidenced arguments against the Council's plan were presented robustly by the East Coker 'team' of residents, Parish Councillors, East Coker Society, and the barrister and consultants instructed by the East Coker Preservation Trust. During the hearing, we had to produce many additional papers to rebut answers which the Council gave to questions raised by the Inspector. This involved a huge amount of work by all those involved in making our case.

At the end of the final day, the Inspector, David Hogger, thanked all those who had participated in the three weeks of the hearing, in particular local residents who he felt had put their case in a very professional and considered way.

Finally, he said that he would be writing to the Council within the next two weeks to give his initial impressions, and that he had 'issues' with the soundness of the Plan. If these 'issues' can only be resolved by major modifications to the Plan, then the council will have to conduct public consultations on these changes. The responses would then be considered by the Inspector. If he is satisfied with the result he will undertake his final deliberations and write his final report to SSDC. This process could take up to 4 months – or more, if the Inspector's concerns are difficult to resolve.

Following the end of the hearing, we had a de-brief with our barrister, Robert McCracken QC, who told us that he felt that we had put forward a strong case and the outcome looked encouraging.

Of course, all of this has cost a great deal of money. We very much appreciate the outstanding support which has been given to the Save East Coker campaign through the appeal for funds and the fund-raising events. Without this support we could not possibly have run the Save East Coker campaign with the degree of professional and legal advice which is necessary if we are to stand a chance of changing the Council's proposed plan. We have done very well so far, but there is every possibility that we will need further work done to respond to the Inspector's decisions.

Unsurprisingly, the bills to pay for our expert advisers will continue to come in during the coming months, so we do need to continue with the fund raising programme. Please see the programme of future events below and continue to give your support to help us continue the fight – as they say, "It isn't over until it's over!"

ECPT contacts

Joe Coles 863146
Peter Woodford 863633

Martyn Sowerbutts 863313
John Fysh 863963

Richard Vanderpump 864565
Sandra Snelling 862162

SAVE EAST COKER FUND RAISING EVENTS

Saturday 6 July – East Coker Village Garden Party at Coker Court – 12 noon - 4.00p.m. Games, Tournaments, Competitions and Hog Roast.

Tickets: Adults £10; Children 11 - 16 £5. Under 11's go FREE. Food included. Wine, beer, soft drinks and ice cream available. Tickets are available from the Village Shop, Sandra Snelling 862162 or Sarah Owen 862218. A great afternoon of fun for all the family.

Sunday 8 September – Big Breakfast at the East Coker Hall. Tickets available soon.

Saturday 19 October – A one-off mid-term return of the ever popular **QUIZ NIGHT**. Get your teams organised and booked in with Martyn and Cherry Sowerbutts as soon as possible 863313.

November (date to be confirmed) – A **BIG BAND** dance and party pre-Christmas event in the East Coker Hall. Watch this space.....more details SOON!

For more information on any of these events, or donations, contact Sandra Snelling 862162. 9 Long Furlong Lane, East Coker.

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

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 27 July

Saturday 31 August

Saturday 28 September

Autumn Jumble Sale - Saturday 12 October. East Coker Hall from 2.00pm. **Remember, we will collect.** Contact Max Bugler 862186.

THE EAST COKER TEAROOMS ARE CLOSING

Sadly, we have to announce that the East Coker Tea Rooms will be closing from 26 July due to the change of ownership of Lufton College, which is potentially to be bought by Sovereign Capital, an organisation that specialises in investing in organisations that provide services for the learning disability community and other vulnerable young people and children.

The very popular little café was a meeting point for local walkers, mothers and fathers, and villagers, and most frequently the workers of The Crystal Courtyard and Crystal Classics.

The tearooms have become a very popular village amenity, and we would like to hear from anybody interested in taking on this venture, as we would love to see it stay open. We intend to let the unit from 1 September 2013 after a refit.

If you should be interested, please contact Ian or Diana on 862673.

EAST COKER TEAROOMS – THANK YOU

Ann, Marilyn and all the Mencap Students from East Coker Tearooms would like to thank you, our customers, for your support and loyalty over the last three years.

We will miss seeing you all, making coffee, tea, cakes and lunch for you, and for the chats and atmosphere created in our little cafe.

We hope to see you around the village.

With best wishes, Ann and Marilyn.

EAST COKER PLAYGROUP – find us on www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk

Thank you to everyone who supported the Playgroup Annual Summer Fair. We were very lucky with the weather. During the afternoon East Coker School Country Dancers danced, cakes were sold, ducks were hooked and faces were painted. Just over £1000 was raised towards playgroup funds, which is fantastic.

Our next fundraising event will be the Craft Fair in November. Please contact the telephone number below for further information.

There will be Summer Holiday Sessions available at the playgroup on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 09.00am to 12.00pm. Summer Holiday Sessions will start Tuesday 23 July and finish Thursday 15 August. Please contact the telephone number below for further details.

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 Early Years Entitlement is available in the funding period after their third birthday. We are open during term time with sessions every week-day morning and afternoon sessions on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and optional lunch cover for children who like to bring a packed lunch.

If you are seeking childcare for your 2-year-old, East Chinnock Under Fives playgroup accepts children from their 2nd birthday to starting school. For the past few years the staff at East Coker Playgroup also staff East Chinnock Under Fives playgroup, and both playgroups feed into East Coker Primary School. East Chinnock Under Fives playgroup is a smaller group and this can be a great benefit to the younger children. The opening times are term-time with sessions every week-day morning and an afternoon session on Thursday, with optional lunch cover for children who like to bring a packed lunch. East Chinnock Under Fives playgroup also runs an integrated Toddler Session on Thursday mornings from 9.30am to 11.00am for £1 per family. To find out more information, please visit www.eastchinnockunder5spreschool.co.uk

Information about both playgroups can be found on their web sites and/or by contacting Kay Strode on 07798 812540.

The Churches

COKER RIDGE BENEFICE SERVICES

It has been a long time in the pipeline, but Sunday 7 July sees the Inaugural Service of the new Coker Ridge Benefice, bringing together the seven churches of the two Benefices of East and West Coker. By then, the Rev'd David Wilson and I will have been licensed by the Archdeacon as the Rector and Associate Vicar respectively. David will now have responsibility for all seven churches and I shall assist him, principally on the Eastern side of the Benefice.

Perhaps the most noticeable consequence will be some changes to Service times. These will establish common start times and a sufficient interval between Services to enable David and I to get from one church to the next. An amended pattern of Service will come into effect from Sunday, 14 July. From this date, the main morning Service at St Michael's will always be at 10.45am. Please note the changed time. The Sunday School will now meet on the first Sunday of the month and the Family Service/Communion will take place on the second Sunday.

Please note, too, the changes mentioned below in the pattern of Services at Sutton Bingham and Closworth.

One new feature will be a joint Service for all seven churches when there is a fifth Sunday in the month. Details of the venue for these Services will follow. Mattins at St Michael's will continue in such months, but on the 3rd Sunday.

Set out like this, the new pattern might sound a little complicated at first. But in practice, once things are up and running, it will soon seem normal. The changes are part of a much wider process across the Church of England. With a reduction in the number of full-time clergy, it has become necessary to move to new patterns of ministry. My experience elsewhere has been that changes, which may initially seem like an adverse step, can actually be the means of re-vitalisation and new growth. I very much hope it will prove to be so here, too.

The Rev'd Charles Hatton

New Coker Ridge Benefice Service Plan

The service details for July – October 2013 will be found at the end of this Newsletter.

BIBLE MID-WEEK MEETINGS – A series in Exodus

Wednesday 17 July, 7.00pm – Doug Johnson – The Abiding Commandment – 1 John 1:1-2:6
Wednesday 21 August, 7.00pm – Peter Bannister – The Source of Confidence – 1 John 2:18-3:10
Wednesday 18 September, 7.00pm – James Maitland – What we should know – 1 John 3:11-4:6

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

For further details, please contact Edward Armitstead 862785 or Roy Hodder 862519.

SPRING FAIR AND PLANT SALE 11 May

Thank you all for coming and making the Spring Fair a success; we made £550.

Thank you to the churchwardens for their encouragement, and to the many people who helped us by: leafleting all the village houses; making cakes, jam and marmalade; growing plants; donating raffle prizes; praying for good weather (we had lots of sun and only one sharp shower); fetching the tables and chairs; providing a car parking field. Also to all the stall holders, the refreshments team and those on the gate.

Special thanks to Victoria for welcoming us to her lovely house and garden, to the members of her family and household who washed up and baked cakes for us, and to Mark and Gemma from Barnabas House who spent their entire visit helping on the plant stall.

We look forward to seeing you all next year.

The organisers of the Spring Fair (Lesley Lindsay, Judith Shaw, Diana Turton and Christine Vince)

EAST COKER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, BURTON LANE

Weekly Meetings Sundays Services 11.00am. 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 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 **Home Groups** on Tuesday evenings for anyone who may be interested in discussing the Christian faith and there is a youth group meeting midweek for those aged between 18 and 30.

Little Wheelers Mother and Toddler Group meeting at the East Coker Hall each Tuesday (during term time) from 10.30am – 12.00pm.

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. Alternatively you may wish to look at our website on www.eastcokerchapel.co.uk

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit' The letter to the Romans, Chapter 15 verse 13 (NIVUK).

By the time this issue is printed the Village Fete will have taken place. We trust that everyone who was able to attend had a wonderful time and you may want to make a note in your diaries for next year's Fete which is due to take place on Saturday 5 July 2014.

Village News

GOOSEY FAYRE – Saturday 28 September, 12.00pm onwards. Free Entry.

We will be holding our 5th Annual Goosey Fayre to celebrate Michaelmas on Saturday 28 September.

Come and enjoy a family day out with all the fun of the fair at Goosey Fayre. From 12.00pm onwards, BBQ, bar, cream teas, food tastings and much more.

Children's swingboats; roundabout; pony rides; craft tent.

This year we will be fundraising for Chernobyl Children's Lifeline.

Goose Slade Farm Shop, East Coker. Open Tuesday – Saturday 10.00am – 6.00pm. Visit our Tea Shop for morning coffee and a pastry, light lunch, afternoon tea and cake and of course a delicious cream tea.

The Dunnings 863735

PLANT SALE – Thank You

We had fantastic weather for the Plant Sale at Weavers Lodge on Saturday 1 June 2013. Even though we had to put back the sale for 2 weeks because of the bad weather, it certainly made a difference. It was lovely to see such a lot of people, regulars and newcomers.

We raised over £700 for St. Margaret's Hospice, and we would like to thank all those people who came, those who donated but couldn't come, and to those people who donated raffle prizes, and of course the helpers, as we couldn't have done it without them.

1st Prize of a Planter was won by Mrs. Neal
2nd Prize of a Fruit Basket won by Mr. Roy Mills
3rd Prize of Brimsmore Voucher won by Angie Mead.
There were various other prizes and winners.

Christine and Glenn Seymour

OPEN GARDEN – Owl Cottage, Coker Marsh

The garden will be open for the National Gardens Scheme on the weekend 7/8 September 2013 from 2.00pm – 5.00pm. All welcome.

Sue Richards

MESSAGE FROM EAST COKER VILLAGE STORE

As some of you will already know it has been necessary for us to change our opening times. As a reminder, or for those of you who are not aware, our revised opening times are:

Monday to Friday	9.00am to 2.00pm
Saturday	8.00am to 1.00pm
Sunday	8.30am to 11.00am

Further to the above we are still offering the same range of goods and it is with this in mind we would like to invite everyone to our 'Open Afternoon' which is to be held on Saturday 24 August. Please come along between 3.00pm and 6.00pm to see what your Village Store has to offer you. We will have samples of many products for you to try including local breads, cakes, cheeses and much more. This is the perfect opportunity for you to come and see and more importantly taste some of the wide range of quality items we stock. You do not need to bring any money as we will not be selling anything and we promise not to make you sample the washing up liquid by doing any washing up! We would be pleased to see customers old and new and are hoping that this will be an enjoyable and valuable afternoon.

Vicki Moorhouse

VILLAGE RANGER SCHEME:

Many of you may be aware, that our village lengthsman Richard Thorne has retired and the ECPC has decided to go to the Village Ranger scheme offered to us by SSDC. It's on the same lines as before but they provide the Ranger with training and equipment.

Our new Ranger is called Matthew, who is great, so please make him welcome and if he is working outside your property, I am sure a cup of tea will go down well. He is with us on a Tuesday and Wednesday, I am his co-ordinator and assign jobs for him to do on these days.

If anyone notices jobs in the parish that they think needs attending like strimming, styles and drains please contact me:

Home: 863435

Mobile: 07097621106

Email: bridget.sugg@hotmail.co.uk

Please no calls after 6.00pm and messages left will be taken into account but not replied to.

Bridget Sugg, Vice Chair ECPC



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RNLI – Flag Week 3 to 8 June 2013

Once again, the folks of East Coker have shown their generosity by contributing the sum of £257.09 to the RNLI during our Annual Flag Week collection. This combines with the donations from other villages to produce a total of £1,122.15 from our house to house collections this year. A further sum of £363.89 was raised from our Yeovil Town Centre collection on Saturday 8 June.

Thank you to all who supported us, either by giving or by collecting.

Peter Burrows, Chairman Yeovil & District Branch RNLI

THE HELYAR ARMS

Saturday 27 July – Family Fun Day – Games, Food, Drink and lots of fun in aid of Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. 2.00pm - Late. Local Acoustic Trio 'One Tree Hill' will be playing from 8.00pm.

SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY

The mobile library route for East Coker is Tuesday, every 4 weeks, from 2.30pm – 2.50pm at the Helyar Arms, and 2.55pm – 3.10pm at Mill Close. Further information from Libraries Direct 0845 3459177 or www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries

9 July

6 August

3 September

1 October

EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

Mr J New applied for the vacant position of Parish Councillor and was formally co-opted at the May meeting.

At the Annual Parish Council meeting in May, Councillors' representation on working groups was confirmed as last year and Councillor Stan Shayler accepted the Office of Chairman again.

Rangers Scheme

This new scheme has replaced the Lengthsman Scheme and after a few difficulties now seems to be working well. Councillor Sugg is the lead on this and she would welcome comments on 863435 or suggestions on how the Ranger can help to keep the parish looking neat and tidy. We are grateful for the time Bridget devotes to the management of this important work. We would also like to thank all those parishioners who take an active part in helping to keep the place looking good.

Youth Services Review

As part of a joint review of Youth Services in the area, we were fortunate to be part of an externally funded consultation process by the Somerset Rural Youth Project. Some of our young people turned up at the Pavilion on a very cold wet evening in May and their views formed part of a report covering Yeovil and other nearby parishes.

The specific feedback from young people in East Coker showed they

- are happy with the activities and facilities they have access to, despite reporting lower levels of access to youth clubs, sports facilities and little choice of things to do in their spare time.
- have the lowest perception of holiday activity provision.
- reported the lowest access to advice and support services of all the areas surveyed.
- feel safe within their community.
- demonstrated the lowest awareness of Yeovil Youth Council and the majority do not know how to make their views known.
- express the highest interest in fundraising and setting up a youth club within the area.

Also Access to internet is statistically the most limited of all the areas.

It would be very helpful if any young people who would like to take these issues forward could contact either the Parish Clerk on 862062 clerk@eastcokerpc1.wanadoo.co.uk or Councillor Kath Wilson on 475029 kath.wilson@sky.com

Neighbourhood Plan

We applied to SSDC for our civil parish boundary to be the area of the Neighbourhood Plan. There were objections to this from Yeovil Town Council and Brympton Parish Council. We have a meeting with Andy Foyne and others from SSDC on 10 July to discuss this. We hope that the area will soon be approved. We have managed to secure further funding of £7000 from government grants to support the development of the Plan, especially for the employment of independent planning advisers. Now that the inspection of the Local Plan is completed, we hope to be able to direct more energy into this work. Much of the hard work colleagues have expended on the Local Plan will be directly helpful in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Facilities for the parish

There are ongoing discussions about the siting of an extra dog waste unit and content of a notice board within the parish.

Planning application for development off West Coker Road

As with all planning applications, the Parish Council received a consultation request for an application to develop a site for 144 new houses off West Coker Road. A Special Parish Council meeting was held on 10 June to allow parishioners to give their views, affording more time than would be available during the process of a normal parish council meeting. Eighty-five members of the public attended and it appeared that the majority were against the development. This development is not part of the Draft Local Plan. Mr Dunning attended the June Parish Council meeting and was invited to speak. He explained his personal interest in the land and urged the Council that it was time to change and admit some development. He said this particular land was Grade 1 but not 'the best Grade 1'. All Parish Councillors present and eligible voted against the application. This decision has been communicated to SSDC. Councillor Shayler will attend the Area South meeting to put the Council's opinion.

Councillor Kath Wilson on behalf of East Coker Parish Council.

EAST COKER RAINFALL REPORT

Not easy to find much of interest in the rainfall recently, and it is perhaps strange that there is, as yet, no discernible pattern to our rainfall from last year to the present. So far, in this century, there have been consistent features, particularly an annual average which has mostly stayed level at 36ins (91cm) of rain for the year. Not so now.

In 2012, the first quarter's rainfall was only a measly 4¼ins (11.5cm) and the gardens thirsted. But in 2013, the same period was suffused by 9ins (23cm), exactly one quarter of the common average for recent years.

The other quarterly levels in 2012 were progressively more generous. April to June clocked up 15ins (38cm), and July to September 12¼ins (32cm). Then the fourth quarter of 2012, from October to December, turned in 19¼ins (48.5cm) for a year's rain measuring just more than 50in (127cm).

This year, 2013, the first quarter from January to March amended the dismal performance of last year with a decent level of rain at 9ins(23cm); four times that figure reaches the common annual average. But April

to June in the current year has mostly generated short spells of rain, often in the early mornings, and to date (unless there is a real downpour very soon) we are stuck with a second quarter of no more than 4¼ins (11.5cm), and 13¼ins (34cm) in all. In spite of this, the shrubs and trees are looking very healthy, but it should be interesting to observe what sort of showing the remaining two quarters of the year will offer, and whether or not the comparative dryness of the first half of this year is continued.

Villagers knowledgeable about the natural phenomena of East Coker, including rainfall, gather daily outside the village shop of a morning for their newspapers, and much wise commentary, and a degree of what might be termed as 'tosh' will be traded in conversation on the topic of rain. Gerry Smith's opinions warrant a hearing, and Tony Crick learned his weather lore in the RAF rather a long time ago, and the elegantly hatted and booted Ron Smith constantly pouts that his golf will be not possible today. Paul Hillard, charmingly, has been known to ask me what the weather will do tomorrow, but I never fall for that one!

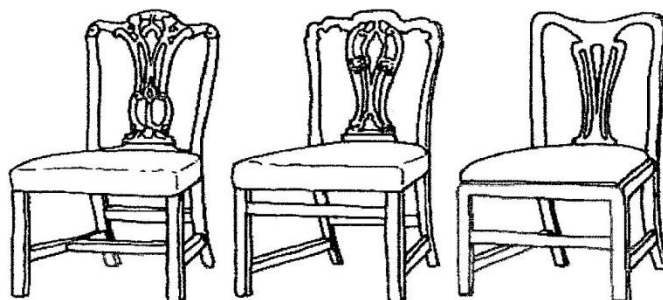
Clive Bingley

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **October 2013**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or e-mail l.lindsay@eastcoker.com, or to The Stores, East Coker, by **Thursday 19 September 2013**.

KEN MARSH

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Fri 5 July	Action Medical Research – Cream Teas		
Tues 9 July	Library		
Thur 11 July	Gardening Club – Living with Bees	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 14 July	Wine Circle – BBQ Lunch – plus fun	12.30pm - 1.00pm	The Vicarage
Mon 15 July	Time to Share – Living with the Boss	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thur 25 July	W.I. – The Art of Quilting	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 26 July	Coffee Morning – St Margaret's Hospice	10.00am – 12.0pm	The Forester's Arms
Sat 27 July	Poetry Group – Picnic	6.30pm	The Vicarage
Sat 27 July	Scout Group – Waste Paper	8.30am – 10.30am	Near the School
Sat 27 July	Family Fun Day – The Air Ambulance	2.00pm – late	The Helyar Arms
Mon 29 July	Time to Share – Flower Arranging	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 5 Aug	Time to Share – My Life	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 6 Aug	Library		
Wed 7 Aug	Wine Circle – Yapps of Mere	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thur 8 Aug	Gardening Club – Competition	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 17 Aug	East Coker Flower Show	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 19 Aug	Time to Share – Medieval Music	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 27 Aug	Poetry Group – Open Evening	7.30pm	The Fox Inn, Corscombe
Thur 29 Aug	W.I. – Will's Grumpy Old Men	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 30 Aug	Coffee Morning – Cancer Research	10.00am - 12.00pm	The Forester's
Sat 31 Aug	Scout Group – Waste Paper	8.30am – 10.30am	Near the School
Tues 3 Sept	Library		
Wed 4 Sept	Wine Circle – Commercial Tasting	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 7 & Sun 8 Sept	Open Garden	2.00pm – 5.00pm	Owl Cottage, Coker Marsh
Sun 8 Sept	Save East Coker – Big Breakfast		East Coker Hall
Mon 9 Sept	Time to Share – AGM and Bring & Buy	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 11 Sept	W.I. – Burns the Bread the Baker	7.00pm	Glastonbury
Thur 12 Sept	Gardening Club – Nat Trust Gardens	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thur 19 Sept	Copy for October Newsletter		
Thur 18 Sept	W.I. – Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 23 Sept	Time to Share – Outing	11.00am – 5.30pm	
Thur 26 Sept	W.I. – Open Evening	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 27 Sept	Coffee Morning – CLIC	10.00am - 12.00pm	The Forester's
Sat 28 Sept	Scout Group – Waste Paper	8.30am – 10.30am	Near the School
Sat 28 Sept	Goose Slade Farm Shop - Goosey Fair	From 12.00pm	
Tues 1 Oct	Library		
Wed 2 Oct	Wine Circle – Wine Tasting	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 5 Oct	RBL – Poppy Coffee Morning	10.00am - 12.00pm	East Coker Hall