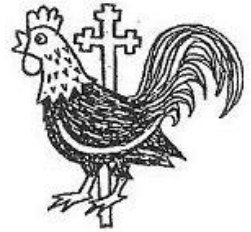


East Coker Society Newsletter



July 2020

Free Issue No 179

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

East Coker Society News

Welcome to our July Edition

We hope all our readers are keeping well during these unusual and challenging times. It was particularly sad to report in the April Edition the cancellation of so many events, when we were all adapting to the impact of Coronavirus. In true East Coker spirit, many of you have rallied to help those in need of support, and we anticipate these good deeds will need to continue for some time yet. Current Government guidelines are indicating the gradual reopening of businesses and venues, so let's hope that we can look forward to resuming our activities in the not too distant future.

Newsletter publication and distribution

We are not able to produce hard copies of this Newsletter, but we are sending it to those who subscribe by email. It is also available on our website at www.eastcoker.com. If someone you know in East Coker does not have access to a computer, please print them a copy so they can keep abreast of local news. If anyone would like to be added to our email list, they need to contact Lesley Lindsay at l.lindsay@eastcoker.com, providing their email and postal address. These personal details are not shared with any other party.

Winter Fayre

The Winter Fayre scheduled for Saturday 24 October 2020 will be unlikely to go ahead for social distancing reasons. However, we will review the position nearer the date. If you would like to register a provisional interest for a table, please contact Sarah Owen. Tel. 01935 862218.

Sarah Owen
Secretary, East Coker Society

Village Clubs and Organisations

EAST COKER PLAYERS

Pantomime 2020

The Committee, after asking our members for their thoughts and opinions, have made the decision to postpone the Pantomime until November 2021. This is in the interest of everyone's safety at this present time.

All meetings, read-throughs and auditions have been cancelled. We hope to be able to get together for our AGM in January 2021.

Chairperson Anne Hartley 862040 Secretary Hazel Giddings 429163.

TIME TO SHARE

Oh dear, Time to Sharers. Still no news of when we will be able to get together again, but we all stay in touch and phone for regular updates on how we are all doing. We sent out a postcard to everybody in May, which made us all very happy.

One piece of good news is that we have booked our Christmas Lunch at the Village Café for Monday 7 December, so this should keep us going for a bit.

Keep smiling and keep safe and we will be in touch as soon as there is news of tea, cake and fun on a Monday afternoon.

Sandra Snelling 862162

Anne Hartley 862060

Hello, all Time to Sharers

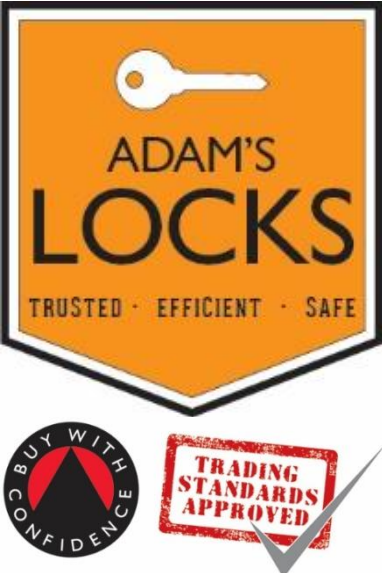
Although we are not with you at this scary, crazy time, we are sending you a message.

Whilst we are apart, we just wanted to write to say a big hello! Please know that we are missing you all.

Think about all the good times we have shared and will have again sometime soon. This won't last forever. Keep safe and remember we are thinking about you.

All our love and good wishes from Sandra and Anne.
XXXXXXXXXX





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EAST COKER WI

With no indication yet on when the East Coker Hall will be reopened for groups to meet again, the Women's Institute, with so many other organisations, are eagerly awaiting the good news. All the cancelled speakers so far have agreed to attend our meetings in the following year's programme. We have also had to cancel the monthly whist drives which will, hopefully, be able to restart in the autumn.

Many of the members have taken full advantage of the new afternoon Friday market in the Playing Field Carpark and so have been able to meet old friends for a chat at a social distance. We do hope that this will continue after the lockdown has been finished.

Anyone who would like any information about the Institute, please contact our secretary Ruby Rollo, tel. 475010.

Meanwhile, stay safe and enjoy the sunshine and the fact that we live in a wonderful village with plenty of space to walk and cycle around.

Projected diary dates

30 July	AGM and social time	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
27 August	Seated Pom-Pom dance	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
24 September	Cooking easy healthy meals	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
29 October	Open Evening	7.30pm	East Coker all

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EAST COKER POETRY GROUP – MINI NEWSLETTER 20 JUNE 2020

I hope everyone is keeping well.

The VE commemoration last month prompted me to read some talks given by J B Priestley in 1940. I have added some extracts from these talks at the end of this Poetry Group mini-newsletter. I found it interesting to compare his experiences with our first month of the Coronavirus epidemic.

First, here are some more poems from members of the group. The first two address the problems of shopping

Morrison's Covid Shop (18 March 2020)

Turn off the main road,
steady with traffic, yet not busy.
Park in the well-populated car park.
"There are a few items left" a man calls
as we walk towards the store.
Few trolleys are left, the store will be busy.

With basket in hand we enter.
Within a few steps there is a difference.
Focussed shoppers, heads down, move swiftly,
conversation sparse, few stand still.
Shop and pick, move and pick,
focussed on the next destination
decided on availability and need.

Some shelves are full of non-essentials
some yawn discarded and lazy

like a gap-toothed child.
Whole aisles, dead as whale carcasses
displaying rib-cages of empty shelves.
Flensing knives have not been used
but shopping trolleys swollen in ranks
stripping aisle by aisle.

Queues at the tills
stretched by social-distancing
are populated by nervous shoppers
Eyes quick and searching, free of conversation
keen to be free of close-proximity.
Pay by contactless, pay quickly, pay quietly.
Pace back to the car park, searching around.
Load up, drive off, sigh in relief.

Trevor Pearce

Corona Polka

You put one foot in
One foot out
In out, in out shuffle down the aisle
You do the Corona Polka
As you turn around
Just let the next shopper pass.

You put one hand up
one hand down
Up down, up down back on the shelf
You do the Corona Polka

As you turn around
Just let the next shopper pass.

You put your whole self in
Your whole self out
In out, in out and back right away
You do the Corona Polka
As you turn around
And flee the supermarket, fast as you can.

Caroline Mornement

Alice

Granny didn't smell of lavender
like most old ladies did,
her favourite was Vic vapour rub
a cure for all ailments.
I see her in wrap over pinny,
pile of crisp clean linen.
The crockery sparkled -
wash the glasses first, our eth--
her voice still rings in my head.
I loved her music box which played
Annie Laurie when opened
She kept her cigarettes in it
but she never inhaled.
I was fascinated by
the old shove ha'penny board
the halfpenny smooth on one side.

She loved a glass of stout
and the church whist drive
-- she always wore her hat.
We once walked through a field
when horses suddenly gave chase
we ran and dived in a ditch
but her hairnet got caught on barbed wire.
The hilarity I felt as a nine year old
still makes me smile today.
She had born sorrows aplenty,
her indomitable spirit undimmed.
Never believed in doctors,
said a little prayer each night.
One day she went to bed early--
that's where they found her next day.

Heather Murphy

Zoom in April 2020

Enthusiastic talkers, makers, doers, learners
exhausting to the listeners and
silent watchers, who wait within darkened screens.
But
behind those screen facades are many sorrows and fears unsaid.

Caroline Mornement

Here is J B Priestley writing in the summer of 1940.

I don't think there has ever been a lovelier English spring than this last one, now melting into full summer. Sometimes, in between listening to the latest news of battle or destruction I've gone out and stared at the red japonica or the cherry and almond blossom, so clear and exquisite against the moss-stained old wall – and have hardly been able to believe my eyes; I've just gaped and gaped like a bumpkin at a fair through all these weeks of spring.

The other day I made the strangest journey I ever remember making in this country: I went to Margate....it was like some fantastic dream of a day trip.....A dozen times during the day I told myself that in a minute I'd wake up from all this and find myself back in the comfortable routine of a year ago. We were almost on the front at Margate before I'd realised that we were anywhere near the town.....But there we were at last – on the front at Margate. The sun, with a fine irony, came bounding out.

We began to walk along the front. Everything was there: bathing pools, bandstands, gardens with flowers, lido, theatres, and the like; and miles of firm golden sands all spread out beneath the July sun. But no people! – not a soul.....Silence. It was as if an evil magician had whisked everybody away.

Do send any poems, info or items of interest to g4bmo@yahoo.com


Best wishes to all in the East Coker Poetry Group, David

EAST COKER FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW

East Coker Flower and Produce Show are sad to announce that the show is cancelled for this year. We will hope you are all safe and enjoying your gardens.


The committee are planning ahead for next year, so looking forward to seeing you all when we can.

Thank you, the Show Committee



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Young People

EAST COKER PRIMARY SCHOOL



What an extraordinary time we have all had over the past few months. We have been immensely busy, as have all schools, as we have essentially set up three new types of schools, an online one, a school club for key workers and very recently, a school for all our key workers, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 pupils. Each 'school' has meant a change in staffing, hours and responsibilities, timetabling and learning provision. I am extremely grateful to my incredibly dedicated staff who have made this possible through many hours of additional work and very little time off and the huge support from our school community.

As a school, we have been privileged to be able to support our key worker parents over the past three months. We have had about twenty-six key worker pupils attending our school club, which has been open every day, including the Easter holidays, up until May half term, from 8.30am in the morning. They have been very busy with their online learning as well as having village walkabouts, painting large Easter bunnies for the village, cooking, crafting and lots of sports.

During this time, staff have also set up a completely new online learning system and supported our families through providing lessons and activities and many resource links.

The staff have also provided a fair few giggles through our 'Getty Challenge' and 'Bob the Builder' dance video, please do have a look on our website if you would like some light relief: <https://www.eastcokerschool.co.uk/what-do-the-staff-get-up-to-on-lockdown/>.

In February, the school began its #Be Kind campaign in response to the death of Caroline Flack. Staff nominate children and their name is then added to a 'caught being kind' paper chain, which is currently making its way around the school building. Before lockdown, the children were nominated for good manners, helping others, being mindful of their words etc; however, after school closure this has grown to: Hoovering round the house, cooking tea, making cups of tea for parents, sending pictures to the NHS,

helping and sending cards to neighbours who are isolating, raising money for charity and much, much more. It makes me feel exceptionally proud to be a part of the East Coker Primary School community. <https://www.eastcokerschool.co.uk/be-kind-nominations/>.

East Coker School families have been incredibly supportive, and I am extremely grateful for their participation and taking on a new teaching role. They have not only supported their children with the day to day online learning activities, but also with the 'curve ball' tasks we send them every now and then from our many sporting skill challenges, family Easter activity sessions, our well-being tasks and our Enrichment week activities.

You may have seen in the newspaper that the school put together a virtual Spring Concert for our Year 6 pupils. Normally we have an Annual Music Concert, which is open to our two choirs, school and privately taught instrumentalists and any Year 6 pupils who wish to perform. This year we had to cancel our concert, but we were determined to offer something for our Year 6 pupils. Mrs Allen, our music coordinator, and Mr Simon Stacey, a parent and our Vice Chair of Governors, put together a video of our Year 6 pupils 'home performances'. The children did an exceptional job and you can view our concert on our website: <https://www.eastcokerschool.co.uk/spring-concert-2020/>.

It has been incredibly important to us to ensure our online learning community feel fully included, albeit very challenging at the moment, due to staffing restraints following reopening. We will continue to support our learners at home while we also manage our YR, Y1, Y6 and Key Worker 'bubbles' in school. We have a few end-of-term events coming up such as Sports Day, Year 6 leaver events and Commendation Assembly in which we hope to achieve this.

As you will see from all we have been doing, the whole school community, from staff to children, parents/guardians and the wider family, have risen to the challenges COVID 19 has presented, and I feel as a school community we have come out of this far stronger. We now look forward to a lovely summer, social distancing permitting, with a bit more time with our families, friends and loved ones.

Jane Hesketh-Williams
Head Teacher

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

Virtual scouting is the current way ahead whilst all face-to-face scouting remains suspended until further notice.

At present, beavers, cubs and scouts are keeping in touch and working through badges using Zoom and other digital resources. It is great to still be able to see each other.



Cyclist badges and scavenger hunts have been completed, quizzes and escape rooms are planned. Activities that go towards badges, and can be completed at home, are being circulated – including reaction rockets - and the Scout Association has developed a specific Great Indoors Challenge badge.

Somerset County Scouts ran a Virtual Camp. This involved an opening ceremony, activities for the weekend, an online camp-fire songs session and an overnight camp in your own garden. They also ran a Scarecrow Competition, and an East Coker knitted scout was created.

The Scout Association has developed a four stage return to scouting which aligns to the Government guidance. The first step back will allow us to hold small groups outdoors.

It is important for us to maintain our scout hut, and it is being regularly checked. We are proceeding with replacement of the roof which will give a great facelift to the building. We are also hoping to replace the flooring, which is showing its age, as well as doing some repainting.

We look forward to commencing all our activities again once it is safe to do so.

Our Autumn Jumble Sale on Saturday 17 October will most probably have to be cancelled as it is difficult to socially distance. We will review nearer the date.

Newspaper collections also remain suspended. We will review as the social distancing is relaxed, so please continue to keep your papers for us. If you have too many, please drop them at Max's house when convenient for you.

David Webber, Group Scout Leader eastcokerscouts@gmail.com

EAST COKER PLAYGROUP Find us on www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk

During the lockdown, East Coker Preschool was closed to all, except keyworker parents who required childcare to carry out their vital role. As of 1 June, our preschool has re-opened to all children; there are changes in our daily operation to control the Covid-19 virus, but we are all adapting to the new normal. The preschool has a one-way entry and exit system with hand washing on entry and hand gel on exit. There are two 'bubbles' of children with their resources, practitioner and own outside space, separated from each other by screen dividers and stair gate. Regular cleaning takes place throughout the day and after the children have departed.

There is lots of fun and learning too! This week, the children in one bubble made their own puppet from a wooden spoon and were very keen to put on a show for the other bubble to watch. Thinking caps on as how to do this and maintain social distancing! The children doing the show 'hid' behind the divider screens and the audience bubble on the other side, sat on chairs at a social distance from the divider screens. The 'puppets' entertained the audience bubble, introducing themselves and singing songs. It was wonderful to watch, lots of clapping from the audience bubble and the happiness on all the children's faces was heart-warming.

Children can join us from the age of 2½ years. We accept 2-year old funding, 15 hour Universal Early Years Entitlement, Extended Entitlement 30 hour free childcare, Tax Free Childcare and Childcare Vouchers.

For more information on support with childcare costs, please visit www.childcarechoices.gov.uk, the Childcare Choices website which makes it easy to find out what's on offer.

We are open during term time at the following session times:

- Monday 9.00-12.00 – 1.00-3.00
- Tuesday 9.00-12.00 – 1.00-3.00
- Wednesday 9.00-12.00 – 1.00-3.00
- Thursday 9.00-12.00 – 1.00-3.00
- Friday 9.00-12.00 – 1.00-3.00

Children staying for lunch need to bring a packed lunch.

Please enquire about extended opening hours, 8.00am - 4.00pm.

Stop Press: Please contact us to enquire about Summer Holiday Sessions in July.

East Chinnock Under Fives Preschool.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the preschool has been keeping in contact with families via email and the groups' Facebook page. We will fully re-open in September 2020.

If you are seeking childcare for your 2-year old, East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup accepts children from their 2nd birthday to starting school. The setting has large outdoor space and a cosy playroom full of resources to facilitate playing and learning.

East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup is a smaller group and this can be a great benefit to the younger children.

Baby & Toddler Session – returns September 2020 – subject to Covid-19 guidance

East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup run a Baby & Toddler Session on Thursday afternoon from 1.30pm to 3.00pm. Pop along and join in the social distancing fun, everyone is welcome.

To find out more information, please visit our Facebook page, East Chinnock Playgroup.

For more information and to register your child/children for either East Coker Playgroup or East Chinnock Under Fives, please contact Kay Strobe on 07503751133 or email ecplaygroup@aol.com.

The Churches

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

The Church is now open – Wednesday morning

St Michael's will now be open for private prayer on a Wednesday morning from 10.00am to noon. Please be prepared to use hand sanitiser when you arrive and leave. There will be someone present to keep a record of those who come, in case we need to contact people later if there are found to be any infections. Our bishops have said that this should be done in all churches.

The great Christian festivals of Easter and Pentecost have passed with our Churches closed to all, including our Clergy. It is a distressing time. Throughout this period, Father Colin has been "streaming" a Virtual Holy Communion Service at 11.00am on Sundays from the Rectory, and a weekly Pew Sheet has kept Parishioners "in the picture". All can be accessed through the Benefice website.

After almost two years serving in the Coker Ridge Benefice, The Rev'd Caroline O'Neale has decided, after much thought and prayer, that she must focus her ministry on the Chaplaincy of a school in Bath. We are grateful for all she has contributed to us and wish her well in the next phase of her ministry. Unfortunately, a formal farewell was not possible, but contributions have been received towards the purchase of an electric bicycle and an eco-watering can.

Deborah Wootton, our Children's Work leader writes:

A variety of Children's activities for Virtual Messy Church sessions can be accessed on the Coker Ridge website with an exciting story and fun things to do and make to keep children busy. Post your pictures on our Benefice Facebook page for all to see! There will be new sessions each month throughout the Summer. Have fun!

School Leavers' Party

Each year pupils leaving East Coker School have attended a Tea party at St Michael's where the Rector has presented them with a named copy of the Scripture Union booklet, It's Your Move containing good advice about moving to Secondary School. Alas, this is another Virus casualty, but pupils will still receive a named copy of the booklet and a tube of Loveheart sweets as a poor substitute for the Tea party.

The Coker Ridge Benefice website is www.cokerridge.org.uk.

Deborah Wootton's email is childrensworkleader.cokerridge@gmail.com tel 07814 204948

If you have any special needs or support with prayers, please contact our Rector, the Rev'd Colin Simpson. tel 01935 862429 or email rectorcokerridge@gmail.com.

If you are not already receiving the Pew Sheet News with helpful thoughts etc please contact Christine Vince, the PCC Secretary christine.vince2@btinternet.com or tel 863429

The Rector sends a message to his Parish: "Back to Church"

The government announced recently that places of worship may re-open for supervised private prayer. Naturally in these times of continuing pandemic and high risks to our health, we need to make special arrangements so that we minimise the risk of contaminating each other as we return to inhabit the buildings that we love, this will take a little while but look out for the notices around our villages. Having been somewhat detached from them for the past three months, I for one have had the opportunity to think about "church" and what it means. I have returned to part of my original academic study to look at our relationships with these beautiful old buildings and what it says about the God we worship, and in whose name and honour they were built.

I wonder how many of you realise that all of the churches in the Coker Ridge Benefice (comprising East Coker, Hardington, Clossworth, Sutton Bingham, Penderome, East Chinnock and West Coker) have their roots in the monastic heritage of this country. Some were planted by monasteries in northern France, some from Glastonbury and further north in this country. The common thread through all these roots is that they were originally and primarily, in their simple timber and thatch frames, houses of prayer. This is one of the things that attracts us to the buildings that have replaced those simple structures, that they have been places where our ancestors have been in conversation with God, and where God has formed and shaped them in His service.

Another attraction is the obvious beauty of the architecture and decoration. Many people hereabouts have family members going back generations who cut the stones, and made the glass, who repaired, replaced and built these structures. They did this not simply because it was their way of making a living, but also for the Glory of God. If you see A.M.D.G. inscribed somewhere inside a church this is what it means, and the beauty of our buildings is in a small way, our attempt at expressing the beauty, majesty and mystery of God.

We also love our church buildings because of the things that have happened in them. Week by week members of the Christian communities hereabouts have met together, sharing in the music and song, the reading and preaching, the bread and the wine of our regular worship. Each time developing a slightly deeper understanding of our God, building up over lifetimes of dedicated attendance and service to our current understanding of faith. But it is yet more than this. We also, in normal times, share in Christenings, Weddings and, of course, Funerals where our communities gather and give thanks for, grieve and remember those that make up our human family. This leaves footsteps in the memory that we can wander alongside when we visit the places where these events have happened.

In recent months, we have been without this comfort and memory. We have gone “on-line” for our worship, and while this has provided opportunity for those who usually do not join us when we gather together, the virtual world cannot match the joy that we have in greeting and hugging old friends, people with shared history and experience, who will understand without us having to explain.

Sadly, we will have to continue for a good while longer without these physical comforts, without the singing and sharing, if we are to keep the risk of infection to its lowest practical levels. But we have also seen in these past months that the church, or what we might call the Kingdom of God, is not restricted to the buildings that we love, and which help us so much. I believe that the love that I call God lives deep within all of us – this is the meaning of the lines from scripture I recite in the marriage service which say “God is Love and those who live in Love live in God and God lives in them”, and we have seen this love in action in all those who have helped another through the beginning of this crisis. The shoppers, the carers, those who have put themselves at risk to care for and treat those who are infected, and those who have gently and compassionately dealt with those who have died and whose families have had to mourn at this awful social distance. You will have many more examples of this kindness and humanity from those who would not claim the Christian faith. Those of other religions and none, who find their own and individual ways of connecting with the power and energy that flows through each of us and the whole of creation.

While I hope that we will soon be able to use our churches in more ways than the current socially distanced prayer that is permitted, as we go forward I hope we will recognise that it truly is the people that make both our church and our wider communities and that the love that we might call the Kingdom of God has been present with us as we have loved, cared and shared with and for each other and I pray that now we have tapped into that stream of love we may journey more deeply into it.

Every Blessing

Fr. Colin Simpson, Rector of the Coker Ridge Benefice

THE CHAPEL - EAST COKER

The Chapel will resume meeting again at the East Coker Hall on Sunday mornings at 11.00am as soon as the government and Hall Committee permit. We are really looking forward to having church again. If you're looking for an informal, welcoming and friendly church, give us a try.

In these incredibly uncertain times, it's wonderful to know we have a sure and certain hope in our God who we fully trust.

Please check out any updates on our website www.eastcokerchapel.com or find us on Facebook. You can email us on ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk.

Village News

THE VILLAGE CAFÉ

We are open Wednesdays and Saturdays now from 10.00am - 1.30pm. Takeaway only for now, there's Bacon and Brie bagels, 6oz burger with fries and coleslaw, breakfast baps to name a few. Tables and chairs are provided for eating outside, but you may bring your own fold-out chairs if you prefer.

Sunday Lunch is a choice between roast beef, pork, chicken or there are also vegetarian and vegan options on request 🍷.

Sunday Lunch has to be pre-ordered before Friday, 1.00pm.

The above information will be in place until the end of August 2020.

Take care and stay safe.

Contact mobile 07577 448232 or Facebook page, 'Village Café, East Coker'

Kiet ❤️❤️❤️ The Village Café

GOOSE SLADE FARM SHOP

We are fortunate and thankful that we have been able to remain open throughout the lockdown and would like to thank all those who have supported their local farm shop throughout this time.

We have had to drastically change how we operate our business and have set up an online click and collect web service which has proved very popular, we also take orders via telephone or email. We are continuing this service by popular request but are now also allowing limited numbers of customers into the shop maintaining social distancing. This is currently between the hours of 12.00pm till 4.00pm Tuesday to Saturday. We have extended the shopping area into the tea shop and the tea shop will remain closed for the foreseeable future.

You can keep up to date with any changes via our website www.thegoosefarm.com or on our Facebook page.

Telephone 01935 863735

ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

This has been an extremely difficult year for our Charity like so many others, with all fundraising activities cancelled for the foreseeable future. Head Office has been closed since March to cut costs, and a skeleton staff are working from home as required.

We have not made a final decision regarding The Diva Lunch in October, but I think it is unlikely to go ahead. Next year will be the 70th Anniversary since the Charity started and the 40th Anniversary of our East Coker Committee, so we are all recharging our batteries so to speak and intending hopefully to come back next year with lots of events to tempt you – Watch this space!!

Stay safe.

Jane Donnelly 01935 478409 or janedonnelly81@outlook.com

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EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

Pop Up Vegetable, Fish and Meat Stall

The Parish Council is very excited to welcome a regular pop up Vegetable, Fish, meat stall to the Pavilion Car Park every Friday from 3.00pm. The first one was very successful and the feedback on the quality has been excellent. So, come along and purchase your fresh produce ready for the weekend and also cakes and bread products when possible. We really hope that this will be very well supported.

Coker Corona

This communication will continue for the time being but not quite so often. We will continue to keep you updated with all the latest news in the Parish. If you do not receive this by email and would like to get it on a regular basis, please contact The Clerk, clerk@eastcokerparish.com.

Scarecrow Competition

The Scarecrow Competition was a huge success. Thank you to everybody who built one and added to the excitement of finding them! We had almost 100 - all photographed, and you can see them on the Parish Council website, www.eastcokerparish.co.uk.

We are also in the process of preparing books of VE Day, Selfies and Scarecrows which will be available for everybody to see when we can have a Parish Get Together at some time in the future. Watch this space.

Food Bank

This is continuing under the supervision of Kieta at the Village Café and is no longer a Parish Council project. Kieta is hoping to help out with food parcels for the children at the School during the summer holidays, as well as continuing with the ones she delivers to at the moment. Keep the donations coming please. Every other Monday 10.00am-12noon. **Not the 6th but the 13th & 27th July and 10th & 24th August.** Collections are the same week on Thursdays.

Sheep worrying

It is with regret that we have once again had reports of sheep attacks and worrying in the village. This is not acceptable and extremely upsetting!

Can we please remind all dog owners that under the 1953 Protection of Livestock Act you can be prosecuted for letting your dog worry sheep, and also the 1971 Animals Act entitles a farmer to shoot a dog which is clearly worrying or attacking their livestock. None of us want this to happen, so please always keep dogs under close control at all times and on leads in or around fields of livestock.

The Chapel

At the moment, all plans for the Chapel modernisation have been put on hold, however we will be sure to contact everyone who has volunteered or showed an interest in the project as soon as we move forward.

East Coker Country Code

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors.
- Leave gates and property as you find them and keep to paths.
- Follow advice and local signs.
- Protect the natural environment:
- Keep dogs under effective control at all times and be mindful of livestock.
- Do not remove wild plants.
- Leave no trace of your visit and take all your litter home.
- Enjoy the Outdoors and love our Countryside.

Dog Poo Bins

We are still having a problem with some individuals using the Council dog bins to deposit their dog waste which they have collected from their own gardens. Can we reiterate that dog poo which is collected from your garden can go in your own black bin and not the Council bins. **It all ends up in the same place!**

Village Ranger

Now lockdown has been eased, our ranger, Karen, is now back in the village every Wednesday. Over the past few weeks, she has made a great job of catching up on works, and our village is looking tidy and cared for once more.

Please give her a wave and a cup of tea if you can and let us know of any jobs you see that need her expertise. If you see anything that needs her attention, please contact Chairman B Sugg, 07907 621106 (no calls after 5pm or at the weekend please).

Parish Council

The Parish Council would like to welcome Tania Wilkins and Huxley Cowan to the team and look forward to working with them.

There is still a Councillor vacancy available, so if you feel you can give up a few hours each month to help make important decisions which affect the Parish, then please send a letter of intent to clerk@eastcokerparish.com.

Parish Clerk

The Parish Clerk (Jude Heggarty) works on a Tuesday and Thursday and she can be contacted by phone 01935 863778 on those days (office hours) or emailed on Clerk@eastcokerparish.com.

Visit our website for full information on forthcoming events, Councillors and contact details www.eastcokerparish.co.uk.

WASSAIL THEATRE – NEW PLAY

Nick White, Artistic Director of the Wassail Theatre, writes:

I'm making a new play which is exclusively available to people in East Coker and West Coker. I've put it on the East Coker Facebook group.

It is called Heartbeat, and it's about looking for what's at the heart of our community. You can find out more about it [here](#).

With best wishes

Nick White, Wassail Theatre, nick@wassailtheatre.co.uk, www.wassailtheatre.co.uk, #theatre #somerset

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **October 2020**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay at l.lindsay@eastcoker.com by **Friday 25 September 2020 or before if possible**.

PS: There is no quarterly diary in this issue.