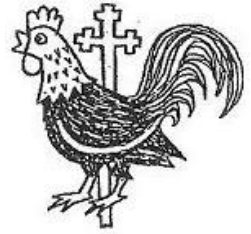


East Coker Society Newsletter



July 2021

Free Issue No 183

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 Summer Newsletter. Normally, at this time of year, we would be reporting numerous activities on behalf of all our Clubs and Organisations. Sadly, so much has been curtailed by the ongoing Coronavirus restrictions, which have been extended until 19 July. Let's hope these measures finally come to an end this month and we can plan ahead for some of our regular meetings and events.

East Coker Society still has a booking for our Winter Fayre on **Saturday 23 October, 2.00pm to 4.00pm in East Coker Village Hall**. This annual event has always been a favourite in the village, and the variety of stalls provides a perfect opportunity to buy unique gifts. Many of our previous stallholders have indicated their interest.

If you would like to book a table, please contact me as soon as possible so that I can reserve a space for you.

Newsletter copies

Printed copies of this Newsletter will be made available at Goose Slade Farm Shop, the Helyar Arms, St Michael and All Angels' Church, the Village Café and East Coker Hall.

Sarah Owen, Secretary, East Coker Society

Village Clubs and Organisations

EAST COKER WI

Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, we have still been unable to meet as group, but have hopes that we shall be able to restart on Thursday 29 July when we have a fun session booked with seated pom-pom exercises.

In the meantime, as we number under 30 members, we hope the weather will be kind and allow us to meet in early July in a member's garden for a cream tea and a catch-up chat.

Anyone who would like information about joining the Women's Institute please contact our Secretary, Ruby Rollo tel. no 01935 475010.

Joyce Pryor

EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

Our website <http://www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk> will carry details of meetings when they are confirmed.

Although we are planning meetings, they may be cancelled at short notice due to the continuing coronavirus situation.

Anyone interested in receiving our newsletter should contact me via our website.

David Cloke
www.eastcoker.com

TIME TO SHARE

Hooray! We are having our birthday party at the Village Café on Tuesday 6 July. It will be the first time we have been able to get together since March 2020. What a great afternoon it will be after all that time. No need for anyone to entertain us on this occasion! There will be plenty to talk about.

Watch this space for future dates moving into Autumn and Winter.

For more information on joining the Club, please contact Sandra Snelling 862162 or Anne Hartley 862060.

Sandra and Anne



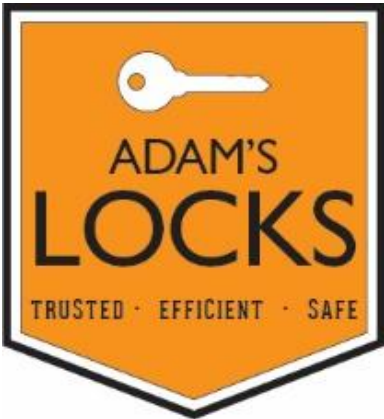
EAST COKER PLAYERS.

The Players Committee have been meeting by Zoom whilst we have been unable to meet in person. At our June meeting, it was agreed we would proceed with putting on a Pantomime for 26 and 27 November. We hope by then that things will have improved, and most restrictions removed. Amie, our new producer, will now start to bring the production together.

We are currently looking for some backstage help, this would involve putting up the stage extension, setting up the stage for a performance, lifting the back drops, moving scenery and assisting with large props. Training would be given.

If you would be interested in joining us on the stage or behind the scenes, please get in touch. We hope to commence rehearsals on Monday and Thursday evenings from 2 September 2021.

For further details, contact Chairperson Anne Hartley 862060



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EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

We have been having meetings via Zoom. This remarkable technology is allowing our members to socialise again, after most of our scheduled programme had to be cancelled because of the Government restrictions due to the spread of Covid-19.

If you would like to be involved or join a like-minded group of people, contact ecwctipple@btinternet.com

Sarah Rashley

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH

We will have a stall at West Coker Village Fete in Church Field on Saturday 31 July 11.00am – 4.00pm.

A Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning will be held at West Coker Memorial Hall on 16 October 2021.

See the village notice boards for further information. Thank-you all for your continued support.

David Holland Chairman, tel 862782, email d.holland632@btinternet.com

Marilyn Smith Secretary, tel 863944, email mazza1944@outlook.com

Dave Giles Membership, tel 07733223806, email: dgiles39@gmail.com

EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

We will continue to produce *The Propagator*, which Linda will send out via email to as many members as she can. If you do not have access to email, please let us know and we will try to get a hard copy to you.

We look forward to resuming our meetings in due course, and to seeing and welcoming our members again. In the meantime, if you wish to speak to us, please do phone me 01935 862447 or Stan Shayler 01935 420291.

Take care, keep well and safe.

Helen

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EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

We are happy to be back to face-to-face scouting both outdoors and indoors. All our activities continue to be in accordance with our approved COVID-19 risk assessment and the Scout Association 'Back Together Safely' Readiness Level guidelines – this is now at Yellow level.



The Cubs have been canoeing at Sutton Bingham. You could not have asked for a better warm, sunny evening; many chose to get wet by practising turning over! The Cubs have also been to Pendomer Woods cooking on open fires and den building as well as hiking around the village.

The Beavers have been to Hardington Reserve for a hike, cooking at the hut and making bird feeders. They have also been up to Ham hill for their Navigator badge. The Scouts used their pioneering skills to make thrones for the two patrol leaders and have lit fires using flint and steel at Mike's Woods before cooking sausages and marshmallows. We were pleased to support Year 6 at East Coker School with tents for their sleep out; the Scouts took the tents down and packed them away on the Friday evening.

The Scouts have had their first East Somerset District event since 2019. Two teams attended the District Day Hike, starting and finishing at the top of Ham Hill. This meant at the end of 7.5 miles, a steep ascent was necessary, but this made the rations eaten at the end taste even better.

We did a litter pick around the village in support of Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean. This activity idea came from the Parish Council, and we borrowed their picking kit.

At the hut, we have had new flooring fitted which makes the hut seem larger and we are trying to keep it pristine for a while but know that with all our activities this won't be for long.

With regards to fundraising, we have booked the Village Quiz for Saturday 13 November (further details nearer the time) but we are not planning a Jumble Sale for this year.

However, we have decided to stop newspaper collections. We thank Max for all his time over decades of collecting newspaper and taking it to Dorchester for recycling.

It's great to be back to our active programme – we hope to be camping again soon.

David Webber, Group Scout Leader
eastcokerscouts@gmail.com

EAST COKER VILLAGE QUIZ

The Village Hall is booked for Saturday 13 November.

Further details will be out nearer the Quiz so we will have a better idea of any changes to arrangements that may still be needed.



The Quiz Gopher
eastcokerscouts@gmail.com

EAST COKER PRIMARY SCHOOL



As we reach the end of another very challenging and exceptional year, I would like to share with you the things the children and staff have been up to over the past few months.

Following the school reopening back in March, we have been focusing on supporting the children with their resilience, teamwork, confidence, and general well-being. As a result, our 'Wilderness' topic this term has been very practical and hands on. Activities have included survival weeks, weekly welly walks around the village and a wide range of outdoor education lessons as well as continuing our Well Being Wednesdays and Feel Good Fridays.

Government guidance has still meant we are working in many individualised 'bubbles' with very limited movement of staff and pupils. Play and lunches are still staggered, and zones have been set up for each class with only their designated staff member supervising. This does limit the school to what we can do but staff have become very adept at planning with social distancing in mind! This has meant that events have been done in a slightly different way, sometimes outdoors, sometimes through videos and sometimes through virtual meetings.

With the nicer weather, we have been able to go out more and have been able to plan some of our more normal events. Sadly, due to the guidance and our risk assessments, parents are still not permitted on site. This is frustrating considering the changes to restrictions when the children are out of school but with the numbers of children and staff we have on site, are very important to continue to have in place.

Staff have been very keen to plan and deliver as many of our normal events as possible. This has meant we have had to redesign them in order to meet risk assessments and DfE guidance, which has taken a considerable amount of extra time. However, we are very excited to share with you that so far this term we have taken part in our annual Enrichment week, which included taking part in the Od Arts Festival. Our Year 6 pupils attended an art workshop and visited the gallery in West Coker, while our remaining junior pupils walked up to Coker Court and the church to look at the art on exhibit. Our Year 6 children could not go on their residential this year, so we had a one-night camp out on the school field. Needless to say, we had some very sleepy pupils and staff the following day.

Our infants have also taken part in an African Drumming workshop day, which was, while very noisy for everyone in the school, really enjoyable and a great opportunity for our little ones to have some normality back. We have some fabulous dancers in our Reception class!!

We also have our Year 3 children taking weekly brass lessons in the hall with Mr Bertie and they sound amazing. They get to take their instruments home to practice, much to our parents' delight. At the end of the programme of lessons, we hope to record their playing and share that on our school website.

We still have many events left this term, despite the dwindling weeks, today Year 5 and Year 6 are playing rounders – socially distanced! We also have our special Year 6 end of year events and a virtual School of Rock event as well as a virtual Wizard of Oz experience!

Once again, I would like to say thank you to parents and the local community for all your support over such an incredibly challenging year and a half. I really do feel privileged to be head teacher of our wonderful school and supportive school community. Have a great summer!

Jane Hesketh-Williams
Head Teacher

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

This summer term the children have been finding out about dinosaurs and people who help us. Our local PCSO called in to tell us about their uniform and how to get help if lost, and kindly let the children look around the police car (sirens on and lights flashing of course). A vet visited the preschool and told us how to look after pets, and let the children help him check over his toy dog Patch.

The Playgroup is a charity, and all fundraising is essential in supporting the Playgroup. Fundraising will enable the Playgroup to maintain and replace the resources that support the children's learning and development. Our next fundraising event raising money on behalf of the Playgroup will be:

Teddy Bear Trail
Saturday 10 July 2021
2.00pm-4.00pm
The Pavilion, Long Furlong Lane, East Coker BA22 9LQ
£2 per child for the trail, refreshments available and a grand raffle.

We are also intending to hold our annual:

Craft Fair
Saturday 20 November 2021
East Coker Hall
Stalls available, for more information and to book a stall – email: judiswan@live.co.uk

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 is 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 8am-4pm.

Stop Press: East Coker Playgroup to offer Summer Holiday Sessions in July and August. Contact us on ecplaygroup@aol.com or 07503 751133 for details or to make a booking.

East Chinnock Under Fives Preschool

Following COVID-19 guidance and updating operating systems as required to keep everyone safe and well. Open with places available now. 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. Our integrated Baby & Toddler Session is still suspended due to Covid-19. As soon as allowed and safe to do so, we will commence our Baby and Toddler Session.

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 07503 751133 or email ecplaygroup@aol.com.


East Coker Playgroup is looking for an Administrator, this is a paid position, approx.10 hrs/month. Please contact us for more details email ecplaygroup@aol.com.

For more information and to register your child/children for either East Coker Playgroup or East Chinnock Under Fives, please contact Kay Strobe on 07503 751133 or email ecplaygroup@aol.com.



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The Churches

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

It is so good to be able to report that the Church is now open at all times and everyone is welcome. Alas seating is still restricted at Services, masks must be worn, and we cannot sing; but thanks to the skills of Stephen Taylor Davies, we have live organ music to accompany our humming, and when the weather has been fine, we have enjoyed singing a final hymn in the open.

We continue with our pattern of Services at St Michael's:

- 1st Sunday of the month - No Service at St Michael's but 11.00am Holy Communion at Sutton Bingham or 11.00am Family Service, Christian Fellowship, East Coker Hall.
- 2nd Sunday - 11 00am - Morning Prayer.
- 3rd Sunday – 6.00pm - Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)
- 4th Sunday – 11.00am - Holy Communion

There is always one Holy Communion Service in the Benefice each Sunday. All details are in the weekly Pew Sheet (contact Christine Vince, tel 01935 863429 to receive a copy). In addition, there is a Holy Communion service, followed by refreshments at 10.00am each Thursday in St Michael's and Zoom study groups which can also be accessed.

St Michael's still seeks a Church warden. At present our PCC secretary, Christine Vince, fulfils the role in all but the title. We are looking for someone with an interest in historical ancient buildings who would help organize the maintenance of our lovely Church. Enquiries to the Rector, The Rev'd Colin Simpson, The Rectory, 7 Cedar Fields, West Coker, BA22 9DB.

We have to report the death of Kenwyn Brown who has been Church warden of Sutton Bingham and will be sadly missed.

There is an exciting programme of Messy Church activities on the Benefice website www.Cokerridge.org organised by our Children's Work Leader, Deborah Wootton. Her Easter Hearts of Hope activity attracted much interest.

Plans are under way for the Annual Gifting of Scripture Union's "It's Your Move" booklet to school leavers at East Coker Primary School, and we hope to be able to present them at a tea party in Church.

We pray that by the time of the next Newsletter all restrictions will have been safely lifted.

Jaqueline Clough

Service For Those We Have Loved But No Longer See

Having organised the All-Souls' Service for over 25 years with two exceptions, it is with both sadness and reluctance I have decided that due to age, it's a big one this year, and personal commitments to opt out.

Colin hopes to have a service in November.

Please see the Pew Sheet and contact him on 01935 862429 for more details.

Monica

THE CHAPEL AT EAST COKER HALL

If you are wondering where God is in this current pandemic, take a look at this YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ghUW4WM0Tg>.

If you would like to get in touch or would like prayer, please go to the contact page on our website where you will find our email address and the mobile numbers of our leadership team www.eastcokerchapel.com.



Breast Cancer Unit Appeal

Help us raise the £2 million we need to build a
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EMAIL:

fundraising@ydh.nhs.uk

PHONE:

01935 383020 to talk to the fundraising team

Making a difference for patients



Village News

STAMPS for CLIC SARGENT

When the Village Café reopens, Keita and Steve will accept them, so please save all your stamps for this worthy cause as they are reused to make money for this charity, which funds vital research into childhood cancers.

MOBILE LIBRARY

The Mobile Library Service returned last week as we ease out of this third Covid lockdown. You may need to revise your calendars as the dates and times have been revised as follows: -

East Coker at the Helyar Arms – 12.00pm – 12.30pm

Visits on Tuesdays every 4 weeks:

29 June

27 July

24 August

21 September

19 October

16 November

14 December

For information about this service, contact Somerset Direct, tel 0300 1232224 or visit www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries

ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

We are very much hoping to go ahead with our Diva Lunch on Friday 15 October this year. A decision will be made in the next few weeks - it may have to be reduced numbers depending on social distancing rules at the time.

Everyone on our mailing list will be contacted with all the details from our Head Office. I cannot keep that information on my computer anymore to comply with Data Protection rules.

Tickets will only be available online and if we should have to cancel at the last moment due to Covid everyone will be refunded on the card the payments were made from.

Any further information please contact me on janedonnelly81@outlook.com

Jane Donnelly

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EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

Changes within the Parish Council

After many years of being Chairperson, Bridget Sugg stood down from the role in May. Over the years Bridget has worked tirelessly to get things done in the village and her work has been very much appreciated. Thankfully, Bridget has not left us completely and remains one of our Councillors. The role of Chairperson has now been taken on by Simon Bridgford-Whittick, who we are very much looking forward to working with.

May also saw Councillor P Chant and Vice-Chairperson M Sheptsone leave us. They will be very much missed, and we thank them for all they have given to our village over the years. The role of Vice Chairperson has been taken on by Laura Mills, who we are certain will do a wonderful job.

We have also got two new Councillors: Councillor Sandi Wintersgill and Councillor Cherrie Warwick-Mortimer.

We are looking forward to working with all our new Councillors especially now we are able to finally meet in person again.

www.eastcoker.com

Enjoying and loving our Countryside

Our village is very lucky to have so many footpaths for us all to enjoy. They are all well signposted and accessible so please stay to the designated paths. If you are unsure of a route, there are maps available to download on the parish web site <https://www.eastcokerparish.co.uk/rights-of-way/>. Please make sure you adhere to the Country code at all times.

Get Involved

If you love getting out and about and being active in the Somerset countryside, then volunteering with Somerset County Council's Rights of Way team could be for you! Somerset's Rights of Way team has received voluntary support from hundreds of interested and passionate individuals for more than 10 years. Volunteers help to care for the network of paths and access rights, so that people can continue to enjoy the Somerset countryside!

In East Coker, we are looking to start getting more local people involved with our network and, in a partnership between Somerset County Council and ourselves, we are looking for volunteers who would like to get involved! There is an opportunity for someone to be trained in the safe use of a brush cutter to help clear vegetation on Rights of Way and, if you would prefer something less physical, lots of opportunities to "adopt" your favourite routes, snipping back overgrowth and reporting larger issues back to the team.

For more information, contact Martin Cooper, Rights of Way Volunteer and Trails Officer at ROWVolunteers@somerset.gov.uk or take a look at the Council's volunteering website to find out more – Somerset volunteering | Volunteer opportunities in Somerset <https://volunteering.somerset.gov.uk/>.

Litter Picking

Big thank you to East Coker Scout Group who spent a day working hard, litter picking around our Village. You all did an amazing job!

Because of increased usage of parish footpaths and lanes, there has been an increase in litter. For those parishioners who are doing a wonderful job collecting such rubbish, the PC have invested in bag hoops, pickers and high viz vests for anyone to use. If you wish to borrow any of the equipment, please contact Bridget Sugg 07907 621106.

Friday Market

From 3.00pm every Friday at the Pavilion car park. There is a wide selection of vegetables, meat, fish, breads, cakes and preserves so please come along and support it.

Coker Corona

We have not produced the Corona lately as there is not a lot to report, however there will be another publication over the summer months.

Summer Events

Sadly, summer events have been cancelled due to Covid 19. But we are now planning and looking forward to next year.

Roads

We have ordered four very smart new signs for the Village and hope these will be installed by the end of the summer, so keep your eyes peeled!

If you spot any pot holes or blocked drains around the village, these can be reported directly to SSDC via the Fix My Street App which is very straightforward to use <https://www.fixmystreet.com/> or report them to the Clerk Clerk@eastcokerparish.com.

Village Ranger

Obviously, we are at the height of the growing season and our ranger Karen continues to work very hard at keeping our paths clear and the village looking lovely. If you notice any overgrown paths, or broken stiles please contact Bridget Sugg. 07907 621106.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE

To all East Coker residents, Yeovil Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team are offering a free bike marking session in conjunction with #BikeRegister. You will find us on Friday 16 July between 3.00pm and 4.00pm at East Coker Playing Field at the Outdoor Market.

Security marking your bike only takes a minute or so and can be completed safely whilst adhering to social distancing. Having your frame number to hand and a valid email address will help us greatly and also speed up the process.

If you have any questions in relation to concerns you might have, please also come along and if we cannot help you there and then then we can take your details and get back to you.

Neighbouring areas in Somerset have seen an increase in thefts from vehicles and non-dwelling burglaries (sheds and garages) in recent weeks. We are asking all Yeovil and South Somerset residents to be vigilant. Keep vehicles secure and free from valuables, keep outbuildings locked and secure and make use of CCTV and DASH CAMS. Please do not become complacent with security. Thank you.

Kind regards

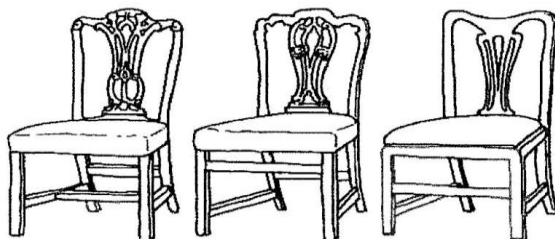
Jackie Poole - Neighbourhood Police Constable 3573
Neighbourhood Team, Avon and Somerset Police, Yeovil Police Station, The Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil, BA20 2HT, **Tel** 101.

Email jackie.poole@avonandsomerset.police.uk

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

If you are a Facebook user, our team has recently set up a local page called Yeovil Neighbourhood Policing which might be of interest and can be followed.

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NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **October 2021**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay at l.lindsay@eastcoker.com by **25 September 2021** or sooner if possible.

PS: There is no quarterly diary in this issue.