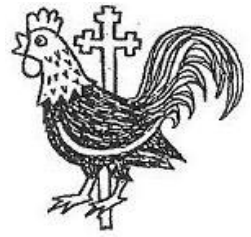


East Coker Society Newsletter



July 2022

Free Issue No 187

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

East Coker Society News

We hope you all enjoyed the events which East Coker had to offer to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend in June, co-ordinated by the Parish Council. Most of our clubs and organisations participated and offered an extraordinary range of events which were enjoyed by all generations. We decorated our houses and public spaces; planted trees; lit a beacon at the Pavilion; opened a new seating area and garden at the junction of Mill Close and Long Furlong Lane; created a new Jubilee Walk; held an Exhibition of East Coker photographs, maps, press cuttings and other memorabilia; and decorated the Pavilion with paintings and drawings of the Commonwealth from the Primary School.

At St Michael and All Angels' Church, the Bells were rung to join the rest of the nation in celebration, and a Jubilee Flower Festival and an Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving was held with contributions from representatives of the community, including the Scouts. The Church looked magnificent with the most beautiful floral displays using locally grown flowers and foliage. The big finale to the weekend was the "Big Lunch" at the Pavilion with something for everyone – competitions, donkeys, face painting, plant sale, disco, food and bar and entertainment from the Players and the Military Wives Choir.

We really appreciate the hard work from those of you who worked so hard for the benefit of us all. It's at times like this that we can all rejoice in living in East Coker, which always values the spirit of community. Long may that last!

East Coker Society has decided to extend to the end of September to send in your photographs to contribute to a photographic record of those residents living in the Parish during 2022. The Society will create a DVD for display at future village exhibitions/fayres. Images only will appear, without names. If you would like to participate, you simply need to arrange to have a good quality digital photo of yourself and the residents of your home taken outside the front of your house. Please send the photo to Pauline Dagnall together with names of those in the photo and your address and telephone number (these details will be used only for administrative purposes). Pauline's email address for this purpose is pmdagnall@gmail.com.

Sarah Owen
Secretary, East Coker Society

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.

Village Clubs and Organisations

EAST COKER PLAYERS

The Players are now back on track and were delighted to be part of the Beacon Lighting for the Jubilee Celebrations.

We are working hard on our next pantomime, full details in the October Newsletter. New members always welcome.

S Shayler, Secretary
www.eastcoker.com

TIME TO SHARE

We had an amazing send-off for all our members at Time to Share on Monday 20 June. What an afternoon! Pink Prosecco, fabulous buffet, strawberry pavlova, and wonderful home-made cake. David Magician, who was great fun, followed by singing and music and a good laugh with Roy Hodder and his little band!

We were all a little sad that this is the last Time to Share meeting, but hopefully we will all meet again when the Café opens under new management later in the year.

Thank you to everybody who has supported us over many years. It has been a joy and will be missed by so many.

Sandra and Anne



EAST COKER FLOWER SHOW - 20 August 2022

The show will be held at East Coker Hall. We are looking forward to seeing everyone!

There will be schedules at Gooselade Farm Shop, and we will try to distribute them at clubs and societies as well.

Hopefully, you read the tips on showing in the last Newsletter, and your garden, crafts, photos, home cooking, wine etc are all coming on.

See you on the 20 August 2022 at East Coker Hall.

Good Luck everyone.

Sarah Rashley

EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

We have a packed program coming up:

- Saturday 17 July is the Platinum Jubilee Summer Event
- Wednesday 3 August, we have Country Cheeses giving a talk
- Wednesday 7 September, some members will be giving a tasting on their favourite Beers
- Wednesday 5 October, there is a talk on Hennessy Brandy
- Saturday 8 October, we are holding our 45th Anniversary Dinner

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 8.00pm at East Coker Hall unless otherwise advised. Subscription of £15.

Guests are welcome

Sarah Rashley

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in East Coker



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To book a treatment or for more information contact Sarah:

07583 039744

sarahnewdigate@gmail.com

www.sarahnewdigatemassage.com

Member of



EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

Meetings during the past few months have been very well attended, and we have welcomed several new members.

Sue Applegate of Polden Wines gave an interesting talk on the management of vines at the meeting in April, followed by talks on Holland, by Gill Hazell, and then on flora and fauna of Western Australia, by Hilary Little, in May and June respectively.

Trips planned to Yeo Valley Gardens and to Burrow Farm Gardens proved very popular and were thoroughly enjoyed by those who went.

The plant swap/sale held in May was successful – in fact, beyond expectations – the weather was kind and both members and non-members attended, enjoying a sociable event. We intend to put this event on again in May 2023.

Talks for the next quarter are detailed below.

Whilst the weather so far this year hasn't been particularly kind to gardeners, we hope that our members will support the East Coker Flower and Produce Show to be held on Saturday 20 August, either by exhibiting or attending the show. It was cancelled in 2020 and 2021, and is always a good event, and has been missed by many.

We are always happy to welcome visitors and new members; whether you are interested in gardening or would just like to join a group of friendly, sociable people, this club could be for you. Visits are arranged during the year to places and gardens of interest.

The Propagator, a free newsletter containing Club news, notes of gardening events, tips, etc is distributed via email, with hard copies available at each meeting for those not on email. During the growing season, there is a produce stall, stocked by members with plants and produce.

Meetings and day trips are all very well supported. We are a friendly lot – why not join us for an enjoyable, sociable evening? You do not need to be good at gardening; talks cover a wide variety of subjects. The annual subscription is £15, with subs of £1 per meeting. Visitors £3.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, commencing at 7.30pm in East Coker Hall, Halves Lane, East Coker. For further information, and to request a free trial visit, please contact Helen Styles 01935 862447.

There is a page on East Coker Hall website for the Gardening Club - if you have access to the web, please do go to <http://eastcokervillagehall.co.uk/> and look at the Gardening Club page.

In the meantime, if you wish to speak to us, please phone me 01935 862447 or Stan Shayler 01935 420291.

- Thursday 11 August **UK Subtropical Gardening** Ben Candlin
- Thursday 8 September **Getting ready for Winter** - this talk will include a demonstration on taking cuttings - Caroline Pakenham
- Thursday 13 October **Off the beaten track – hidden gems** Andrew Tolman
- Thursday 10 November **AGM**, followed by **the 5 main RHS gardens set to music** – David Moon

Helen

EAST COKER WI

Our Jubilee Celebration Meal at the end of June was a great success, with the members all providing both the food and wine. An after-dinner speaker, Commander Holt, who had been responsible for arranging meals for special occasions for the Royal Family, gave us an insight to these times.

Now we are getting back to normal, and we have arranged some very good speakers for the coming year.

We now look forward to our July meeting, when we will learn about the method of producing items with cut glass, with a view to arranging a hands-on day in November

In August, we welcome back Mike Rendell who will tell us about 'The Trailblazing Women of the Georgian Era'. In September, we will meet Michael Malaghan who will give a humorous talk about some of his experiences.

For our **open evening** in October, there will be a talk and display of the 'History of the Falconry' at which there will be live falcons. When we had a talk on owls some years ago there was a big response, with parents and children attending. Admission will be just £5 for non-members (accompanied children free), with tea/coffee/juice available after the talk. Watch out for posters around the village nearer the date.

The Women's Institute meets on the last Thursday of the month at 7.30pm at East Coker Hall unless otherwise advertised. We are also closely linked with other WI's in the Yeovil area as well as being affiliated to the Somerset Federation who arrange other activities such as skittles, golf-croquet and ten pin bowling as well as interesting visits.

Anyone interested in further information, please contact secretary, Ruby Rollo tel 475010

Diary dates

Thursday 28 July	Cut Glass talk and demonstration	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 25 August	Trailblazing Women	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 29 September	Amusing Happenings	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 27 October	Open Evening - The History of Falconry	7.30pm	East Coker Hall

Joyce Pryor

WI - BINGO NIGHT

Put the date in your diary: Saturday 30 July, 7.00pm for 7.30pm
Eyes down at East Coker Hall.
Good prizes to be won
All welcome



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THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH

At last, we are getting a bit of normality in our lives. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in the village were a great success, apart from the downpour on the Sunday afternoon; a big thank-you to those who organised and helped in the event.

Back in April, we held our Cheese & Wine evening. Thanks to everyone who supported us in making it so successful. Your generosity enabled us to raise £600, which will be passed on to assist those members of our armed forces community in need of help. Entertainment was by the Decadettes, a Dorset based vintage singing group, enjoyed by all. The group said they would like to return in the future. Watch this space!

Date for diaries: At present, we have no events arranged for 2022. Our regular Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning is expected to go ahead later in the year (date to be confirmed).

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 Poppy Appeal Organiser (PAO), tel 07733 223806, email dgiles39@gmail.com

EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

Meetings at the Village Café will resume in August, as the new owner is keen for the Poetry Group to continue to meet there.

The following events are planned but could be subject to change:

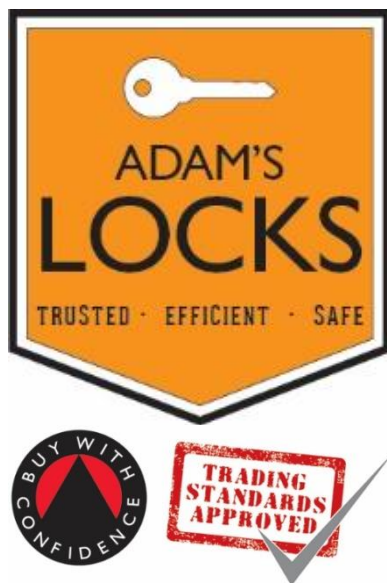
Full details will be posted on our website www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk

Tuesday 30 August Painting with Words, presented by Diane Summer at the Village Café, 7.30pm

Tuesday 27 September Poetry and Politics, presented by Jem Langworthy at the Village Café, 7.30pm

Best wishes for 2022 to everyone in the East Coker Poetry Group, David.

Website <http://www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk>, email info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk



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Young People

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP



The camping season is in full flow and with success for both Scouts and Cubs already.

The Scouts had their District Camping Competition in May, and we won the Novice competition and the Gate competition. Our patrol of Emily, Erin, Loveday and Ruby built and improved their site over the weekend, cooked all their meals and joined in the activities. We also had a younger patrol who learned all about the camp and the requirements for entering the competition next year.



The District Cub camp was held at Hornblotton in June, and the Cubs had a great weekend. Their activities included climbing wall, caving, tractor ride (always popular), tug of war, archery, and team challenges. They were overjoyed to win second prize in the fancy dress competition. The Beavers will be spending a weekend at Huish Woods in July.



Our three scouts, Faye, Charlie, and Emily, who have been selected to attend the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea next year, have begun their fundraising events to raise £4,150 each. This started with a Table-Top Sale at the Rec and then a sweet tombola, buzzer challenge and teas/coffees at the Platinum Jubilee Party. They kept going with the Guess the Weight of the Rucksack despite the torrential downfall of rain. Last weekend was really busy, setting up and then running the Garden Party at Compton and Bassett Cottages. A huge thank you to everyone who came along, and we raised £1,000 towards our target – a good step in the right direction. We have several more events in planning and have booked the East Coker Hall on Saturday 12 November for a WSJ Quiz.

Faye and Charlie are also working towards their Young Leader Award and are now First Aid trained.

Two other Platinum Jubilee activities we took part in, were the service at St Michael's Church where we paraded our flags (and our Scouts and Cubs will grow up alongside the newly planted tree (!)), and our marquee in the centre of town in support of the Yeovil Beacon activities.

Lots more to come before we take a brief break for the summer.

David Webber, Group Scout Leader, eastcokerscouts@gmail.com
www.eastcoker.com

Dates for diaries

Saturday 21 November 2022 – World Scout Jamboree Fundraising Quiz

Saturday 25 March 2023 – 17th Annual East Coker Village Quiz

EAST COKER PLAYGROUP (follow us on Facebook: East Coker Preschool)

Understanding the World has featured a lot this term, there have been many opportunities to help the children make sense of their physical world and their community. The children explored May Day with great enthusiasm. While outside, they painted a cardboard tube and helped to attach ribbons to make a May Pole. There were lots of focusing attention, spatial awareness, and coordination as they danced around the May Pole and entwined the ribbons. We sourced some Morris dancing music and the children enjoyed learning the moves to the music and dancing in the garden.

East Coker Preschool is very grateful to have received a generous donation following the Memorial Service held in St Michael's Church for Joan Williams on 14 February. Joan and Bill Williams moved to East Coker in the 50's and Joan taught at East Coker School for many years. Bill also taught at the College in Yeovil. Joan led a very full life raising her family and with her many years of teaching. She had a long association with the WI and was a member of many clubs and organisations in the community. Over the years, she travelled to visit her daughter in Australia many times until quite late in life. The family kindly offered their donation to re-turf our outside play area when they visited East Coker and saw we had more mud than grass despite a donated re-seed earlier in the year. The garden now looks wonderful again, and we have also been able to purchase some outdoor rugs to preserve the grass, a barrel to play in and some numbered small tyres. The Preschool Committee, families and staff thank the family for their kindness.

Painting is always a popular daily activity, and we were pleased to be asked to draw and paint Union Jack flags for the village Platinum Jubilee celebration at the Pavilion. After the celebrations, the children walked to the natter garden and had a natter, enjoying the wonderful setting. In June, we were invited to East Coker Primary School for a play session. A brilliant morning was spent in their Reception class and garden, it was lovely to catch up after two years and see familiar faces.

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 the **Craft Fair, Saturday 19 November 2022 at East Coker Hall**. Stalls available, for more information and to book a stall, email office.ecplaygroup@gmail.com

Children can join us from the age of 2 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	8.00-9.00	12.00-1.00	3.00-4.00
Tuesday	8.00-9.00	12.00-1.00	3.00-4.00
Wednesday	8.00-9.00	12.00-1.00	3.00-4.00
Thursday	8.00-9.00	12.00-1.00	3.00-4.00
Friday	8.00-9.00	12.00-1.00	3.00-4.00

Children staying for lunch need to bring a packed lunch. Baby and Toddler Session at East Coker Preschool, Thursday 9.30am – 11.00am, £1.50/family We have a playroom full of resources and outdoor space to facilitate playing and learning. Pop along and join us for play and chat.

To find out more information, please visit our Facebook page East Coker Preschool. For more information and to register your child/children for East Coker Playgroup, please contact us 07503751133 or email ecplaygroup@aol.com

EAST COKER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Over the past year, it has been a very stormy time for us here at East Coker both physically and metaphorically. We have been 'back to bubbles' for most of the autumn term and into the spring term due to the high levels of Covid cases of staff and pupils. Sadly, it was a similar picture across Somerset schools.

Thankfully, the summer term has been much more stable, and staff are starting to get 'back to normal', if there is such a thing in schools.

Despite these significant challenges, during the first part of the academic year we have been able to take part in some great events and activities. Our Year 6 pupils finally went on their residential, something which has had to be considerably watered down over the last two years. They spent a lovely week at Mill on the Brue activity centre in Bruton.

Our junior children have managed to have visits to Bristol Museum & Art Gallery, finding out about the Ancient Egyptians, and the Somerset Heritage Centre to investigate the Stone and Bronze Ages. Our Year 4's have visited Bristol Hippodrome to see 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe', and our Year 6's have spent the day at Melbury Farm and Estate. Not to be left out, the Year 3's had a lovely Wellbeing Day at Yeovil Town Football Club earlier this term.

Our infants have also been busy. They have had special celebration days such as a pirate day and a jubilee day. They will also be off to Ninesprings in the coming weeks for a science workshop. They have also been on a village walk last term to look for different types of houses and homes as part of their topic work.

In addition to this, we have been able to hold some lovely whole school events both with and without covid restrictions. The events included our Annual World Book Day, dress up parade, and book fair, PTFAs 'silly disco' and bingo night, and on **Friday 1 July, our Summer Fair will take place from 4.00-6.00pm.**

We have made up for the lack of clubs on offer during our Spring and Autumn terms with children attending a huge number of clubs from archery to basketball, football, choir and much more. We have had individual wins in numerous cross-country races and competed at the county finals football competition. We have also attended a number of fixtures including football, motiv8, girl's football, cross country and netball. Nearly 100% of Year 5/6 pupils have now attended a sporting event outside of school this year. We have had a cricket coach come into school to deliver cricket coaching to the whole of KS2 as well as external football coach linked to Yeovil Town.

It has been a busy year and will continue to be a very busy end of term as we say goodbye to a number of staff across the school who are retiring or moving on due to promotion.

We do have a vacancy for a clerk, should that be of interest, and we are welcoming back volunteers to support our children from September. Please contact the school office if you are interested on 01935 862532.

We wish you all a lovely summer.

Jane Hesketh-Williams, Head Teacher

GIRLGUIDING RE-LAUNCH - Bringing Guiding back to the villages

Many of us have wonderful memories of Brownies and Guides from our childhood. I remember lighting a match for the first time at Brownies - it was terrifying and exhilarating at the same time! (Yes, we do still use matches!).

Brownies began a love of Girlguiding, fun, adventure, and the outdoors, which stayed with me through Guides, Rangers and now as an adult leader. I look on with awe as the young members in my units challenge themselves to try new experiences, all with the fantastic support of our local leaders!

Over the years, girls from West Coker and the surrounding villages have enjoyed a wealth of activities and adventure from their base at the former Scout and Guide Hall. As we look forward to the opening of the new West Coker Youth Centre, we're excited to bring together a new team to support our units.

What will that team look like?

Everyone is welcome, and no prior guiding experience is required. We'll provide our volunteers with full training and support from our local team. Some volunteers attend regular unit meetings, either weekly during term time or once a month. Others help 'behind the scenes' with things like accounts or social media.

If you're keen to gain experience in a particular area, for example, working with certain age groups, or providing a particular type of support, we can facilitate this for you. We know you're busy - any help you can offer makes a big difference to girls and young women in the villages.

Reach out to us today, and let's bring guiding back. girlguiding.org.uk/interested

Linda Carrington
Joint Yeovil Division Commissioner with Jackie Poole

Volunteer with us

'I enjoy it so much. The girls are lovely and I feel I'm doing something worthwhile. It's amazing!'
Tayba, leader

Girlguiding is the leading charity for girls and young women in the UK. Join over 100,000 volunteers and inspire girls in your area by just being you!

It's totally flexible
We know you're busy. But any help you can give will make a big difference. There's no commitment too small. You can volunteer in a group or use your skills behind the scenes. You don't need any guiding experience and men are welcome too!

Where we meet:
City/Town: **West Coker**
Day: **TBC / to suit you!**

Be inspiring. Be you.
at girlguiding.org.uk/interested
or call 0800 169 5901.

Yeovil Division
WE DISCOVER, WE GROW
Girlguiding

The Churches

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Our best news from St Michael's is that, after several years without the services of a Church Warden, Toffer Beattie has been appointed, assisted by his wife Winky. It is wonderful news and will help us to move forward in many ways.

With the help of Monica Whipp, our Lay Reader, we were able to arrange a special Jubilee Service involving the local Scout Group and numerous village people. A Crab-apple tree was planted in the Churchyard, and the Church was splendidly decorated with red, white and blue flowers in an eco-friendly way, that is, not using oasis which is not biodegradable.

The woodworm problem in the ringing chamber was solved, and it was a joy to hear the bells ringing again as part of our celebrations.

Our recent PCC meeting has covered Safeguarding Issues and a Reordering Plan which will include a disabled toilet, baby-changing facilities and safer access to the Church.

Our Rector, the Rev'd Colin Simpson is on the point of chairing a Benefice Meeting when each of our seven Churches is represented by their Church Warden and one other.

We are in the process of considering the appointment of a new Young Families Worker, following Deborah Wootton's inspiring work over the past few years.

Our weekly pattern of Services continues, but people are encouraged to visit other Churches in the Benefice, particularly at Festival times when there is plenty of variety.

Services at St Michael's

1st Sunday of month No Service – An opportunity to attend the Family Service of East Coker Christian Fellowship 11.00am, East Coker Hall
2nd Sunday 11.00am - Morning Prayer.
3rd Sunday 6.00pm - Evensong.
4th Sunday 11.00am - Holy Communion
5th Sunday 10.00am - Benefice Holy Communion - rotating round the Benefice.
Also, Thursdays, 10am - Holy Communion Service and Refreshments in St Michael's on Thursdays.

For those who would like to know more about the Christian faith, Father Colin organises an afternoon Zoom session and an evening meeting.

For further details and information, contact:

Rev'd Colin Simpson, email rectorcokerridge@gmail.com, tel 01935 862429

The Rectory, 7 Cedar Fields, West Coker, Somerset, BA22 9DB www.CokerRidge.org.uk and The Coker Ridge Benefice Facebook.

Office hours Wednesday and Friday, 10.00am-1.00pm.

Barbara Hampshire, email officecokerridge@gmail.com. Office hours Wednesday and Friday, 10.00am-1.30pm, tel 01935 864574.

Monica Whipp, email m.whipp278@btinternet.com tel 01935 862834.

To receive the weekly Pew sheet, please email christine.vince2@btinternet.com or pick up a copy in the Church.

IYENGAR YOGA

At East Coker Village Hall
With certified teacher Lisa Bartlett



Wednesdays at 10am (For those with some experience of yoga)
Fridays at 10am (suitable for all, beginners welcome)

Iyengar Yoga, a traditional system of yoga, is named after BKS Iyengar who is noted for bringing yoga to the West in the 1960s. Through his innovation of yoga props, the poses are accessible to all regardless of age, level of fitness or ability and great emphasis is placed on good alignment in the poses.

Come and join my friendly classes to experience the many benefits of yoga!

Find me on Facebook:
"Iyengar Yoga with Lisa Bartlett"
Or Email: lisabartlett@mac.com Phone: 07837 258495

Classes also held in West Coker (including Gentle Yoga) and Yetminster



THE CHAPEL AT EAST COKER HALL

We meet at East Coker Hall, 11.00am on Sunday mornings. We are always happy to welcome anyone to join us, even if just to see what goes on! Our services are very relaxed and informal and always followed

by tea and coffee. We have a variety of speakers, our own worship band, and a large number of children of all ages in the 'Kids Church'.

Café Church is held on the first Sunday of each month. Fresh coffee, croissants, and bacon rolls are provided, and we have an even more informal time.

On Tuesday mornings in term time, the Toddler Group runs from 10.30 – 12.00; this is aimed at mum, dads, grandparents and child carers and incorporates a café area as well as plenty of play space and equipment.

On Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm, the worship band meet for music practice in the Main Hall, and prayer takes place in the Dampier Room at the same time. Feel free to join us for either, or if you would like prayer, please contact us on 863735 or via our website www.eastcokerchapel.com where you will find our email address and the mobile numbers of our leadership team.

This is worth a read: **Conversation in the Womb – A Parable of Life After Delivery**

In a mother's womb were two babies. One asked the other: "Do you believe in life after delivery? The other replied, "Why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later." "Nonsense" said the first. "There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?"

The second said, "I don't know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths. Maybe we will have other senses that we can't understand now."

The first replied, "That is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. But the umbilical cord is so short. Life after delivery is to be logically excluded."

The second insisted, "Well I think there is something and maybe it's different than it is here. Maybe we won't need this physical cord anymore."

The first replied, "Nonsense. And moreover, if there is life, then why has no one has ever come back from there? Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes us nowhere."

"Well, I don't know," said the second, "but certainly we will meet Mother and she will take care of us."

The first replied "Mother? You actually believe in Mother? That's laughable. If Mother exists, then where is She now?"

The second said, "She is all around us. We are surrounded by her. We are of Her. It is in Her that we live. Without Her this world would not and could not exist."

Said the first: "Well I don't see Her, so it is only logical that She doesn't exist."

To which the second replied, "Sometimes, when you're in silence and you focus and you really listen, you can perceive Her presence, and you can hear Her loving voice, calling down from above."

Village News

VILLAGE CAFÉ

Hello East Coker! My name is Jane, and I will be the new manager of your Village Café.

I live in Hardington with my husband, our 5-year-old son and our Bulldog called Boycie. My mother-in-law manages Hardington Post Office. My childhood was spent in East Chinnock, and I attended East Coker Primary School, of which I have many fond memories.

I am very much looking forward to meeting you all in August; **my first day of opening will be Tuesday, 2 August at 9.00am.** My intended opening hours will be 9.00am until 4.00pm Tuesday – Friday, and 9.00 until Midday on Saturdays.

See you soon, Jane
www.eastcoker.com

MOBILE LIBRARY

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9 August

6 September

4 October

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WEA – COKER BRANCH

We are running two classes in the autumn. Dalia Castelijm is tutoring an art class on Saturday morning, 15 October, in East Coker Hall called 'Masterpieces of Art Nouveau', and Greta de Plage is tutoring a literature class over six afternoons at Hardington Mandeville Village Hall.

We will have more details in the next edition and more details are available on the WEA website WEA National homepage | WEA <https://www.wea.org.uk/> and by calling 0300 303 3464.

Gill Evans

THURSDAY BADMINTON

Meeting each Thursday at East Coker Hall from 2.15pm till 3.15pm, with the possibility of increasing the time if numbers increase.

We are a group of mixed gender and ability and would welcome new members - with a charge of only £2.50 per session attended, and ideal for those who have children at the school and would like a session of exercise.

For any further information, please contact Joyce Pryor, tel 862816.

BONFIRES

If you cannot for any reason recycle your garden waste, please choose a calm day, or preferably an evening, where it will not affect neighbours with blowing smoke.

GOOSE SLADE FARM SHOP

The animals are looking well and benefiting from a plentiful supply of summer grass. The sheep have been sheared, and wool packed ready to go off to the marketing board in hopes for a better price this year. Our two new Great Crested Newt ponds are growing in nicely and will soon hopefully be ready to attract a whole host of wildlife.

Our journey to a more sustainable method of farming continues but now falls under the trendy new term 'regenerative agriculture'. We've been farming this way for well over a decade now but there's still so much more we can do to turn the tide and bring us back in harmony with nature. We are restoring, improving and future-proofing the entire ecosystem of this farm instead of simply working it to the maximum yield.

We have a fresh meat counter stocked with our own home-grown beef, lamb, pork and goose, chicken and duck from Cracknell's poultry, a wide variety of game including venison, rabbit, pheasant and partridge all from our own farm and neighbouring fields. Our butchers are always available and more than happy to help with off counter meat cuts, special orders and cooking advice, please ask if you need assistance.

We have fresh fruit and vegetables locally grown and sourced, fresh bread and cakes delivered daily from local bakeries, homemade cakes, pastries and desserts, a very large selection of jams and preserves, biscuits, snacks and confectionery, an extensive selection of local cheeses and other dairy items and cooked, smoked, and cured meats and fish.

We look forward to serving you soon.

Shop opening hours: **Tuesday to Saturday, 10.00am – 5.00pm**

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ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

Thank you to all of you who supported our Local Cream Tea delivery on 16 June. By the end of the day, we had delivered just under 500 individual boxes in Yeovil, Sherborne, Crewkerne and Martock making a profit of just over £2,900.

Our numbers were slightly down on our deliveries pre-Covid but much better than we feared.

We hope you all enjoyed them as much as we enjoyed packing them.

Jane Donnelly 01935 478409 or janedonnelly81@outlook.com.

EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

Gardens at the Triangle

For many years, Kathryn Sturtridge has been responsible for the garden at the Triangle. She has looked after it and kept it looking beautiful all year round. She has now decided to hand the reins over to someone else, so the Parish Council would like to say a huge thank you to her for tending to it over the past years. I'm sure you all will agree she has done an amazing job.

Book swap

The book swap remains very well supported. Thank you to Mr Shayler for keeping it neat and tidy. Can we please remind people that it is purely for books and not any other forms of bric-a-brac.

Friday - Nicks Fruit and Veg

Nicks Fruit and Veg still visit the Recreation Ground car park every Friday afternoon and will do so whilst there is demand, so please keep supporting this valuable service.

Parish Council

The Parish Council currently has two vacancies. 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

Roads

We are currently waiting on the order of our new signs for the Village and hope these will be installed in the coming months, so keep your eyes peeled!

If you spot any potholes 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 traffic

We still have issues with people speeding through our village. The Parish Council are looking for a group of volunteers to conduct a neighbourhood speed watch group. If you would be happy to volunteer for this, please contact the Clerk via email clerk@eastcokerparish.com

Village Ranger

Our ranger, Karen, visits the village every Tuesday. 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 Cllr B Sugg, 07907 621106 (no calls after 5.00pm or at the weekend, please).

Jubilee celebrations

What a great time we all had over the Queen's Platinum Jubilee - starting with the Jubilee Garden and Beacon Lighting, to Big Lunch with a Drone and Military Wives Choir, and a lot of rain! The History Exhibition in the Pavilion was amazing, and we all learned so much more about the Parish and the people who have lived here.

Some of the photos and information will be stored for posterity in the archives so generations of the future can take a look and see what we did in East Coker for such a momentous occasion in June 2022.

DRONE PICTURE – QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022



ROYAL MEMORIES – MONICA WHIPP

With all the celebrations for the Jubilee going ahead, my mind goes back first to the late King's death in 1952. We all knew he was unwell, but his sudden death came as a great shock. In Church, on the following Sunday, the whole congregation wore black arm bands and most a black hat. I was rather proud of the one I had made.

Sorrow quickly turned to joy sometime later when the date of the Coronation of our new Queen was announced for the following year - especially as I was due to be doing my final placement at St Thomas' Hospital in London at the same time! I immediately decided I would be one of the crowd in the Mall, and eventually my parents agreed. Pam, my younger sister, could come and join me! So, what happened on that memorable weekend?

Pam came up to London by train on the Saturday, and the day was devoted to shopping for food (shops were not open then on Sundays), converting the single divan bed into two beds, and preparations for the special day. On the Sunday, I had hoped to introduce Pam to the service in the Chapel Royal of the Savoy, where I attended from time to time (and where the music was divine). Although we arrived very early, the chapel was full, but we were lucky and managed to find two seats at St Martin-in-the-Fields for an inspiring service. It was only a short walk to the Mall to see where a good place would be to view the processions. Viewing from the road itself would not be easy, as it was to be lined with police and the view would be difficult for a short person. However, some way back from the edge of the road, there was a raised pavement with a handrail which we thought would give us extra height (behind that were ranks of stands).

As Monday was a working day, I left Pam to pack up food and went to work, but after lunch my supervisor gave me permission to go early as the Mall was filling up. I rang Pam, who came to the hospital with food and drink, and we stopped enroute for double egg and chips before getting to the Mall. Horror, it was already packed with groups displaying signs 'No Vacancies' but we were lucky and eventually found standing room on the raised pavement just opposite Clarence House - just where we wanted. There was no room to sit down but it was pouring with rain, so we made the best of it. Later in the evening we did just manage to sit.

The evening passed quickly, there was a continuous stream of traffic of many famous people (who we all cheered) and police on horses, plus the usual dust cart. They had the biggest cheer! Pam and I explored the Park behind the stands where there were rows of port-a-loos and stop cocks for water. Also, an incessant flow of flag sellers and programme sellers. At about 10pm, a voice over the mikes announced the Mall was being closed for the night and the lights would be dimmed, and we were advised to settle

down. We were woken earlier than expected by the mike saying there was some exciting news! Everest had been climbed! A cheer went up. Shortly after, the Mall was opened, and droves flooded in, and the stands filled up. We were told to get up off the ground, collect all rubbish and remove stools. It was fine at first as the procession began to assemble, with many famous people passing. The Queen of Tonga had a special cheer.

Eventually the procession started with Military etc, followed by special guests and at long last the Queen herself and the Duke. The cheering was terrific. Eventually, the mike was switched to Westminster Abbey, and we heard the whole service. The music was amazing, the shouts of 'Long live the Queen' were deafening. It was awe-inspiring. The bit I felt was most important was not so much the crowning, but the swearing by the Queen of the Coronation Oath, and when Philip knelt to swear his oath. I can still feel the shivers run down my back. The two other memories I have, was that the service was basically a Communion service, with the crowning etc inserted, and the silence in the Mall during the service. As we turned the pages of the official programme, there was a loud rustle, that was all.

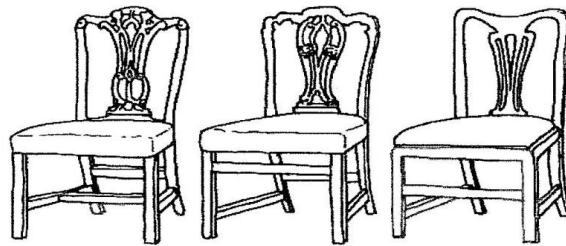
After the service, the procession went round London, so we tucked into our lunches in now pouring rain, pitied the Guards with their dripping bearskins and then cheered the guests as they came back to the Palace. The Queen of Tonga refused to have the canopy up and waved excitedly. We all knew when the Queen's coach was approaching as the cheering became deafening. Pam and I held up our cameras and amazingly we did get a picture of the newly crowned Queen. Most of the visiting guests had the canopies of their carriages down and they too got very wet.

After the last of the procession passed, there was a surge to reach the top of the Mall to watch for the balcony appearance. There were high crush-barriers to prevent people leaving the Mall but somehow, we were hauled over them and stayed to watch the newly crowned Queen and the Royal Family appear. Again, the cheering was tremendous. At last, tiredness - and the cold and rain and hunger - made us decide to leave for a hot bath and good meal at my bed-sit. We were tired but very happy.

Monica Whipp 2022

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NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **October 2022**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay at l.lindsay@eastcoker.com by Monday **26 September 2022** or sooner if possible.

QUARTERLY VILLAGE DIARY

April 2022 – July 2022

Tues 12 July	Mobile Library	11.50am – 12.10pm	Helyar Arms
Fri 17 July	Wine Circle – Summer Event	7.00pm	East Coker Hall Field
Thurs 28 July	WI – Talk – Cut Glass	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 30 July	WI – Bingo Night	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 2 Aug	Opening of The Village Café	9.00am	
Wed 3 Aug	Wine Circle – Talk – Country Cheeses	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 9 Aug	Mobile Library	11.50am – 12.10pm	Helyar Arms
Thurs 11 Aug	Gardening Club – Talk - Ben Candlin	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 20 Aug	East Coker Flower Show	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 25 Aug	WI – Talk – Trailblazing Women	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 30 Aug	Poetry Group – “Paint with Words”	7.30pm	The Village Café
Tues 6 Sept	Mobile Library	11.50am – 12.10pm	Helyar Arms
Wed 7 Sept	Wine Circle - Beer Tasting	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 8 Sept	Gardening Club – Talk – Caroline Pakenham	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 27 Sept	Poetry Group – “Poetry and Politics”	7.30pm	The Village Café
Thurs 29 Sept	WI – Talk Amusing Happenings	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 4 Oct	Mobile Library	11.50am – 12.10pm	Helyar Arms
Wed 5 Oct	Wine Circle – Talk – Hennessey Brandy	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 8 Oct	Wine Circle – 45 th Anniversary Dinner		
Thurs 13 Oct	Gardening Club – Talk - Andrew Tolman	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 26 Sept	Copy for October Newsletter		