

East Coker Society Newsletter



July 2023

Free Issue No 191

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East Coker Society News

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.

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **October 2023**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay at l.lindsay@eastcoker.com by **Wednesday 25 September 2023 or sooner if possible**.

Village Clubs and Organisations

EAST COKER WI

We meet at East Coker Hall on the last Thursday of the month at 7.30pm except for special occasions. We find interesting speakers to both educate and amuse our members.

In August, one of our newer members, who is new to beekeeping and aided by her mentor beekeeper, Toffer Beatty, will tell us about the joys and pitfalls of beekeeping. Our **Open Evening** this year in September is that of Magical Entertainment by Steve Bowering, and in October we are hearing about an exciting trip to Borneo.

For the Open Evening, we welcome young and old of any gender at just £3, with accompanied children free.

The popular monthly Whist Evenings have stopped for the Summer and will recommence on Thursday 21 September at 7.00pm in the Dampier Room of East Coker Hall.

The Bingo Evening in April was a great success, and we plan to repeat it next year.

Diary dates

Thursday 31 August	Beekeeping, 7.30pm, East Coker Hall
Thursday 28 September	Open Evening - Magical Entertainment, 7.30pm, East Coker hall

Joyce Pryor

THURSDAY BADMINTON

We are looking for some new members to join our friendly group on Thursday afternoons for social badminton at East Coker Hall.

Please contact Sally, 01935 824248 if you are interested in joining us.

EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

East Coker Wine Circle meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 8.00pm in East Coker Hall, unless otherwise stated.

We have a packed program for the coming year, starting off with the Summer event on **Sunday 9 July 2023**. There will be Fine Whines Jazz and Bring-Your-Own picnic, guests are welcome, and we need numbers as there will be bubbles on arrival. **Please let David know at www.ecwctipple@btinternet.com as soon as possible.**

Then we are back to East Coker Hall on 2 August for a 'Tasting from Cologne', and 7 September we have a talk 'My name is Brian and I write Spy novels' (Brian Landers OBE ICE).

Subscriptions of £20 are due in August, and visitors pay £5. Hope to see some new faces bring a glass and enjoy.

Sarah Rashley

EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

Following the long, cold and very wet winter, it is wonderful to have sunshine and warmth – although now we may well claim it's too hot!! Blossom this year has been superb, and we are enjoying the roses, philadelphus and honeysuckle as well as many other blooms. The vegetables don't seem so happy due to the cold start and now the lack of water.

We have enjoyed talks on an All-year round garden, Growing your own, and Hedgehogs. In mid-June, several members enjoyed a visit, with an excellent guided tour, to Bennetts Water Gardens at Chickerell. The National Collection of water lilies is held at these gardens. The colours were a treat for the eye, dragonflies and damsels were flitting across the ponds. The cooler air, due to the proximity to the sea and to the ponds, was very much appreciated.

The programme for the next few months is as follows:

Thursday 10 August	Ascension Island – A drop in the ocean? - Martin Young
14 September	Brimsmore – discount shopping evening and talk - 6.00pm
12 October	Gardening in the 'goldilocks' period – Brian Hesketh
9 November	Winter is not just snowdrops – Christine Skelmersdale. Followed by AGM.

We try to provide a varied programme during the year. 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. 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. Vouchers offering discounts on seeds, seed potatoes, young plants and seedlings are available during January and February, with offers on spring bulbs and over-wintering onions and shallots come summer.

Bulk order discounts are available to members during January, with special order forms for sundry goods, such as compost. Twice a year there is a growing competition; fuchsia plug plants were distributed to members at the March meeting for growing on, to be judged at a meeting later this summer. Bulbs will be distributed in the autumn for the competition to be held next spring. Day trips are arranged to places of interest.

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 currently £20, with subs of £2 per meeting. Visitors £5. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, commencing at 7.30pm in East Coker Hall, Halves Lane, East Coker unless otherwise indicated.

For further information, 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.

Helen

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contact Sarah:

07583 039744

sarahnewdigate@gmail.com

www.sarahnewdigatemassage.com



East Coker Players

East Coker's Amateur Dramatic Society is getting ready for
our November Panto – and are inviting new budding
actors to come along to our meeting on **10 July at
7.00pm at East Coker Hall.**

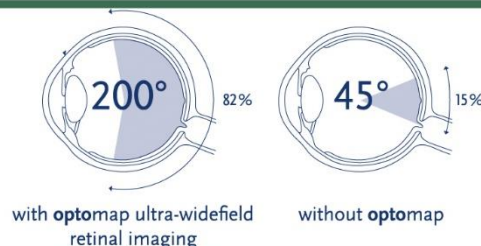
If you would like to come and meet us and hopefully join
our happy band, then just turn up on the evening or let
me know by message or call me for more information.

Many thanks
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EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

Meetings on the last Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm in the Village Café, East Coker. All welcome. An interest in poetry is all that is needed, whether as a writer or reader.

Tuesday 25 July - Open Meeting - Lockdown & Breakout

The Roman writer Pliny the Younger wrote an eye-witness account of the eruption of Vesuvius in 79AD. This is possibly the most well-known and certainly the most important account of that event as he was there and recorded the events as he saw them from the other side of the Bay of Naples.

I am sure most of us would wish to forget the lockdowns of 2020. However, poems written at the time are now a valuable historic record of a unique event.

In March 2020, I suggested in a Newsletter that we should record in poetry the unprecedented events we were witnessing during the Covid lockdowns. The first half of the meeting will be a chance to now read any poem written at that time or listen to poems written by others.

In the second half of the meeting, read any poem that celebrates freedom and good cheer!

Poetry group website <http://www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk>

Email info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk

Best wishes

David

ART CLASSES

WITH ARTIST & LECTURER
ELEANOR FARR MA

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We'll work through all the fundamentals of drawing
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AUTUMN TERMS 2023 BEGIN:

TUESDAY CLASS 5TH SEPTEMBER - 13:05 -15:05
WEDNESDAY CLASS 6TH SEPTEMBER - 13:30 - 15:30
SATURDAY CLASS 9TH SEPTEMBER - 10:00 - 12:00

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EAST COKER VILLAGE HALL

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enquiries@eleanorfarr.gallery

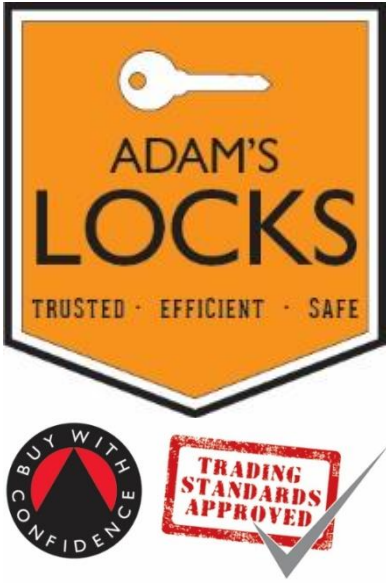


THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH

Our appreciation goes out to all of you who supported our recent Cheese and Wine Evening featuring the Yeovilton Military Wives Choir. Judging from the feedback we have received; everyone had an enjoyable evening with good food and an outstanding performance from the choir.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to raise £900 which will be donated to two RBL welfare organisations in the County. We support the Dunkirk Memorial House care home in Bishops Lydeard, including its specialist dementia care unit, and we donate towards the County Welfare Fund helping serving and ex-serving military families who are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis.

Dave Giles
Chair East/West Coker RBL



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Young People

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

It's been a busy and successful summer term with one more section yet to camp. The scouts attended the East Somerset District Camping Competition in May. Our patrol of seven scouts put up their own campsite, cooked their meals, took part in activities and built their gate and gadgets using poles and rope / twine. They did us proud and came 1st in the Novice camping competition and also won the Gate competition. They came 2nd overall at the camp, winning the County Staff – a first for our Group.



The Fox Trophy weekend hiking competition was held in April. Despite walking a few miles more than necessary, our patrol all finished the two days hiking and came in smiling at the end.

The scouts have just had an activities weekend – on the Saturday we went to Weymouth and took a fast rib ride out into the bay followed by milkshakes and fish & chips. We then drove to Dorset Adventure Park for an hour on the inflatables – plenty of falling and sliding in. Then on Sunday our activity was karting at Haynes. A frantic two sessions of 10 minutes each careering around the circuit – with a few crashes along the way. A great weekend.

The beavers have been making bug hotels, coronation crowns and cooking whilst preparing for their District Camp at Hornblotton in mid-July.

After a number of weeks preparing their District Camp theme of Mad Hatters Picnic, the cubs had their weekend camp in June. The weekend was brilliant – with a new activity; tractor pulling! The cubs came third overall for their Mad Hatter costumes and theme including a colourful Cheshire cat and a large cup & saucer. Since camp, the cubs have been on a walk from Hardington back to East Coker and they have a kayaking session at Sutton Bingham later in July.

Our Stag Explorers have been cooking and playing Taskmaster and are planning to go crabbing before the summer break.



Our three Scouts, Faye, Charlie and Emily, are off to the World Scout Jamboree in South Korea on 27 July. They will have three days in Seoul when they will visit the Demilitarised Zone between North & South Korea, undertake a Monopoly style challenge and spend a day sightseeing. Then they will travel on to the Jamboree site at SaeManGeum on the west coast for 12 days of activities, meeting scouts and sharing cultures from around the

world. The event will start and finish with stage ceremonies where a K-pop band is expected to perform. It will be a brilliant opportunity for them to experience a multitude of new challenges.

Faye and Charlie's last Young Leader Award training module is next week. They then have to demonstrate what they have learned to complete the training.

In June, we held our annual Parents' Evening where each section showed an activity that they have completed to the parents and all the other sections.

Rachel, known as Owl to the beavers, is standing down as our Beaver leader after camp in July. She has superbly run our beavers for 12 years and has supported so many through their first two years of scouting. Her first beavers will now be over 18 years old. Rachel is staying within East Coker scouts as our committee secretary so we will keep her knowledge and experience at hand.

However, we have not yet found a new person to take on our beaver section, so our beaver section will close at the end of this term. If you may be interested in helping us, or know anyone else who may be, please do get in touch.

Thank you for all your support.

David Webber, Group Scout Leader
eastcokerscouts@gmail.com

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

You can fundraise for East Coker Preschool by using Easy Fundraising <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> If you do online shopping, sign up, please choose East Coker Preschool as your cause, download the **EasyFundraising app** to your smartphone or download the browser extension. When you shop online, check if going to a company website via EasyFundraising, this will generate a donation to our Preschool when you spend. A lot of little pennies add up.

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 @ East Coker Playgroup - 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 07503 751133 or email office.ecplaygroup@gmail.com

EAST COKER PRIMARY SCHOOL



Respect, Determination & Courage, Compassion & Collaboration, Independence & Creativity

As usual, we are busy, busy, busy at East Coker Primary School. We had our ungraded Ofsted Inspection at the end of May, and we are proud to say we continue to be good. There were some lovely comments about the school and how we involve our children and their wonderful behaviour. The report is on our school website.

This term, the children have been having an Arts focus with our topic, 'Picture This'. The children have been busy developing their art skills, taking part in workshops during the Od Arts Festival as well as holding a fantastic interactive art open afternoon for the school community.

Just before the half term, the school took part in the Od Arts Festival. This is always a lovely event, and on Friday the juniors usually visit Coker Court and the Chapel to have a look at the art events. This year we also had a small group attend a book binding workshop and parade at the Twineworks.

On 23 June, we celebrated the Arts during our enrichment week and held an open afternoon for families. It was a very busy afternoon which was exceptionally well attended. The children had created gallery guides and QR codes linked to the artwork on display, which was all round the school site, both indoors and outside. At our art exhibit, you could stroll through the Robin's garden artwork next to the bridge which looked like something out of a Monet painting. You could also adventure into the Reception garden to look at 'Art Four Ways' on display, view forest school art, have a look at the painted poles which represent the different cultures within the school and visit Glen's Garden to view Nightingale's totem pole and Kestrels resin work. There was also lots of artwork around the communal areas from Eagles class and, under the canopy, from Kingfishers class. Sketchbooks, Art Floor Books and more artwork could be seen in the classes and school hall.

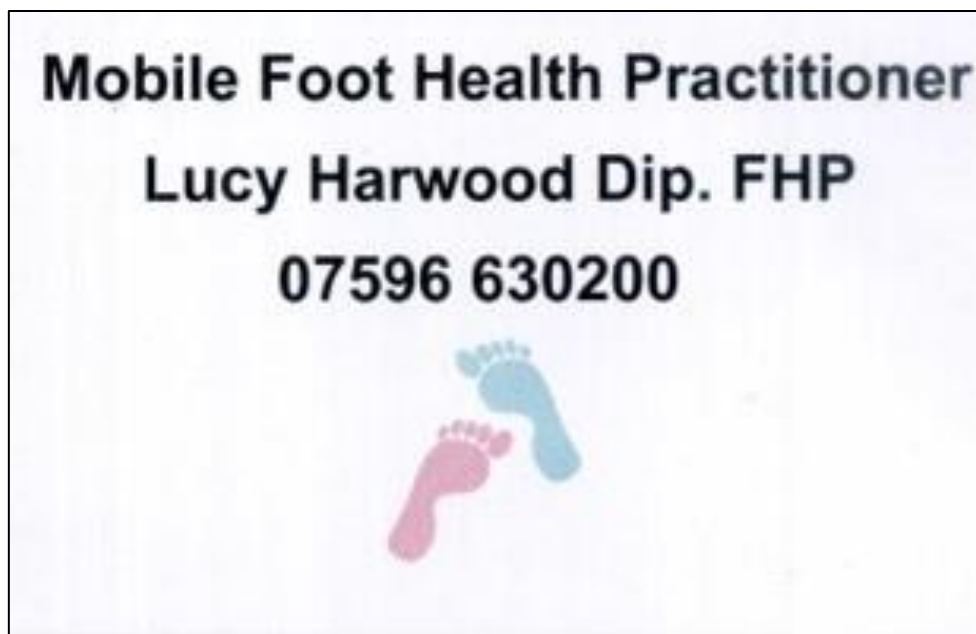
The children and staff did an amazing job producing such wonderful work. Families joined in with our creative activity making a piece to go onto our 'family identity' bunting which we will be displaying in Glen's Garden.

While we approach the end of term rather than slowing down, everything seems to speed up in order to get everything done before the end of the year! The PTFA held an extremely successful Summer Fair, despite the weather! They raise a lot of money for the school to help with events and special equipment such as our Viking Longboat.

We have lots of Year 6 leavers events coming up as well as our infant and junior sports mornings. We also have a Y2/3 visit and a theatre visit to the school and further open afternoon sessions for parents as well as visits from our new reception children.

We are all looking forward to a well-earned summer break.

Jane Hesketh-Williams
Head Teacher



The Churches

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Ascension Day, 18 May to Pentecost, 28 May is a period known as Novena when we remember the period from Christ's final departure into Heaven until the coming of the power of the Holy Spirit on His followers. It is a time when Christians pray particularly for a growth in belief amongst all people worldwide.

Earlier in May, on the eve of his Coronation, we held a Service of Prayers for King Charles which was followed by us drinking his health. There is an historic tradition that the Bishops of Bath & Wells and Durham support the Monarch during the Coronation Service, so it was good to see Bishop Michael Beasley right at the centre of proceedings.

One special occasion occurred much nearer home when our Church Wardens held a special tea party in their home for Monica Whipp who retired after being a Lay Reader for 40 years. Bishop Michael awarded her the title of Reader Emeritus in recognition of her service. Those present included members of Monica's family and many Church and village friends including our Rector and the Diocesan Warden of Readers, Chris Stock.

Services at St Michael's continue as before

1st Sunday of month – No service. **Sutton Bingham** - 11am Holy Communion, 11.00am.

Family Service, East Coker Christian Fellowship, East Coker Hall.

2nd Sunday – 11.00am - Morning Prayer - Lay Led with hymns and a short talk.

3rd Sunday – 6.00pm – Evensong - Book of Common Prayer.

4th Sunday – 11.00am - Holy Communion.

When there are five Sundays in a month, a 10.00am Holy Communion Service is held, by rotation, at one of the seven churches in the Benefice.

On Wednesday 19 July, over 30 leavers from East Coker Primary School have been invited to a tea party at St Michael's when Father Colin Simpson will present them each with a gift of the "It's Your Move" Scripture Union Booklet which contains much very useful advice about moving from a Primary to a Secondary School and a simple Christian message.

On Sunday 17 September, Bishop Michael will visit Hardington Church in our Benefice for a very special service to celebrate its 900th anniversary. TBA - Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service.

For details of all Services and events across the Benefice, please read St Michael's Noticeboard in the Paddock or the weekly Pew Sheet which is available from christine2vince@btinternet.com or 01935 863429.

Ministry Team Contacts - available to all who may need pastoral care.

The Rev'd Colin Simpson, tel 01935 862429, The Rectory, 7 Cedar Fields. West Coker, BA22 9DB
Office hours, Wednesday and Friday 10.00am -1.00pm

Barbs Hampshire, email officecokerridge@gmail.com
Office hours, Wed 9.30am – 4.00pm, tel 01935 864574

Jacqueline Clough

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 10.30am – 12.00pm. This is aimed at mums, dads, grandparents, and child carers and incorporates a café area as well as plenty of play space and equipment.

CHURCH BBQ FROM 1 PM

On Sunday 30 July following our church service, we will be having a summer BBQ at East Coker Hall. This is a free family event with games and bouncy castle. If you would like to come, you would be very welcome, just let us know for the catering if you're thinking of coming.

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 and more information about our church.

Joe Dunning

Fitness With
Rachel Cozens



Monday - Commemoration Hall

West Coker

Salsa Fit - 6pm-6:55pm £6

Pilates 7:05pm-8pm £8

Tuesday - Pavilion

West Coker

Low Impact Aerobics / Stretch -
2:30pm-3:30pm £6

Thursday - Pavilion

West Coker

Pilates 2pm-2:55pm £8

Reduce the risk of falls class -
3:05pm-4pm £6

-cup of tea & social after class -

Tel: 07855433453

Email: rachelcozens@cheerful.com

Village News

KINGSPRING HOUSE, HIGHER BURTON, EAST COKER.

Our garden is open all year-round supporting St. Margaret's Glorious Gardens Scheme, by appointment only. Admission is £4.

There is interest all year with flowering and colourful shrubs, heathers, and bulbs in Winter. There are many varieties of Spring flowering trees, shrubs, and bulbs. Shrubs, roses, dahlias, bulbs and grasses flower in the Summer and Autumn.

Email: gloriousg@Kingspringhouse.uk

Visit www.st-margarets-hospice.org.uk and search 'Glorious Gardens'

Best wishes

Linda & Alan Mayne

ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

Thank you to all of you who supported our Cream Teas this year. We packed and delivered over 700 boxes, and 50 of those came to East Coker, we are very grateful to you all and hope you enjoyed them.

We have made £3,074 profit from this event, so well worth doing.

We are nearly back to pre-covid numbers so all good.

Thank you again for your support.

janedonnelly81@outlook.com or tel 01935 478409.

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GOOSE SLADE FARM SHOP

Lots of people are making the most of the fantastic weather and our outside seating area with a great takeaway coffee from our newly installed Rijo Coffee Machine. Takeaway cakes, tasty traybakes and cream teas are also available to enjoy.

Our Farm Shop is as usual full of delicious food as well as our well stocked meat fridges with our homemade burgers, sausages, steaks and joints from our home-produced animals.

Our butchers are always happy to provide the cuts you would like.

We have an array of good home-made delights, made on the premises including our very popular meringue roulades, lemon or lime crunch, varying flavours and sizes of quiches and unusual, tasty traybakes to name but a few.

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10.00am – 5.00pm, tel 01935 863735 www.thegoosefarm.com

Liz & Phil

MOBILE LIBRARY

The Mobile Library visits East Coker on Tuesdays every four weeks from 11.50am – 12.10pm outside the Helyar Arms. There is a wide selection of books – fiction, non-fiction, large print, DVDs and audio books for adults and children. You can borrow up to 20 items. The stock is regularly refreshed, and you can order books there or online.

To use the service, you must be a member of Somerset Libraries, so remember to bring your membership card. You can join by filling in a membership form with proof of your name and current address, for example, utility bill or a driving licence. Do use this valuable service.

The next visits are 25 July 22 August 19 September

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

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EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

King Charles's Coronation

In true British style, the country celebrated this momentous occasion, and try as it may, the weather did not dampen the good old British spirit. Many residents attended the Village Coronation Picnic on the Sunday at the Recreation Ground. It was lovely to see so many houses decorated with Union Jacks and ask you to those who took time to construct and display their Coronation Scarecrows.

Help is at hand for local groups

Spark Somerset are a charity that offer a range of free support to help community groups achieve their goals. If you live or work in East Coker, we can help you develop anything which will bring people together.

Get in touch with Laura or Leonie for a chat. One of us can also be found in the Village Café most Fridays from 11.30am – 1.00pm.

There's no catch, just a genuine desire to help you with your ideas.

www.eastcoker.com

Leonie: leonie.cole@sparksomerset.org.uk

Laura: laura.gowers@sparksomerset.org.uk or call 07507 793009

Pavilion modernisation project help

The East Coker Pavilion was granted planning permission last year; since then, we have moved to the new phase of undertaking the scheme appraisals (as to cost) and then a route to procurement and a program to completion.

To date, a Quantity Surveyor has been engaged to undertake the estimated building costs, and we have also engaged with a local expertise to undertake how best to construct the scheme at least cost. This process is nearing conclusion before we move to fundraising from the community, leveraging the funding we have already in place in a bank account which has been hypothecated to fund the Pavilion build from ECPC funding (such as S106 monies and other retained funds).

We are looking for anyone (not needing to be a member of the Parish Council) who has got time to give and can join the Working Group. They would need to have time to attend monthly working group meetings and have knowledge of any of the following: Project Management, Planning, Building Regulation and Fundraising.

If you feel that you have time and would like to join the team on this challenging but fun project, please email the Clerk at clerk@eastcokerparish.com

Speeding through the village and inconsiderate parking

We are receiving many complaints regarding speeding through the village. We are engaging with Somerset Traffic and Avon and Somerset Police, but urge you report speeding vehicles using the following link <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/apply/community-speedwatch/>

Can we also encourage people to park more considerately on all roads surrounding and leading to the school when dropping children off in the morning and afternoon. Please be considerate to pedestrians and other road users.

Village Ranger

Our ranger, Karen, visits the village every Tuesday. Please contact Cllr B. Sugg, 07907 621106 (no calls after 5pm or at the weekend please) if you see any jobs which need her attention.

Councillor vacancy

The Parish Council Still have one vacancy. So, if you feel you can offer a few hours a month to become a Councillor, please email the Clerk at Clerk@eastcokerparish.com. Key duties include: attending monthly meetings, looking at local planning requests, discussions on village matters and wellbeing, and discussions on Parish finance and budgeting.

Clerk@eastcokerparish.com

MONICA'S MEMORIES

When I came to Yeovil in 1964, I knew there was a problem with care for the elderly, but I had no idea how great it was. The changes over the last 60 years have been considerable, if not as dramatic as with acute illness. There was no lift between the two male wards, so all patients had to be carried up a twisted staircase - difficult if a patient had departed this life. In the far corner was the derelict building where the tramps used to seek shelter, then used as a bike shelter.

A newly appointed consultant physician did a ward round once a week, and Joyce Best's father, a retired GP, came in each day. There was an occasional physio but no occupational therapist either at Summerlands or YDH. Fortunately, I had worked closely with one in a geriatric unit in London, still talk to her over the phone! The chaplain, the vicar of Odcombe, came in at least twice a week.

The waiting list was two years long, so at the request of the consultant one of my first jobs was to visit and assess those on the list. That meant going out, often into the wilds of Somerset, often with limited addresses with no Sat Nav. Many are the times I stopped at the village shop to enquire where Wood Farm was (and of course you could not go into an empty shop without buying a Mars Bar)! When I did find the farm, I could be met with a younger relative with black tie. My visit was too late or to be told "He be down at the pub, he always goes for a drink at lunchtime". One off the list. Eventually, we were able to get people in as soon as they needed it, but for those we could not I was often able to arrange help.

There were also two units at Wincanton, Verrington Hospital, a relatively modern hospital, and a building shared with the County Council, Town View. I used to go there each week and was able to get some patients home with help or transferred to the Council care home side. Many people refused to go there as it was the old Workhouse, yet the staff were very kind. Many times, the Matron had sat up all night with a patient on the point of death. On one occasion, when I had gone for my visit, I had said I did not want to be late leaving as I was visiting my mother in hospital in Bristol that night. While I was still there, I had a message that Matron wanted to see me in her flat at 4.45pm prompt. When I went in there, there was a supper tray for me in front of the fire with boiled egg and soldiers.

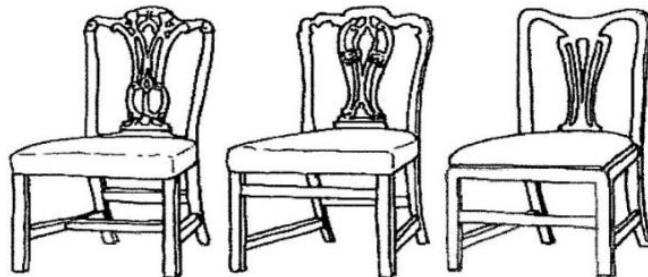
There were very few care homes in those days. In Yeovil, Preston Park was the only Council home, and their dining room was down steps, so you had to be fit to go there; otherwise, it was Town View at Wincanton or a private home in Lyde Road. Grovelands was built later but there was a home run by Nuns at Compton Durville. I spent a lot of time exploring homes all over Somerset.

While I was at Summerlands, a new hospital was built, the old equipment, bed cradles and old walking frames auctioned, some of which ended up in my garden. When demolition day came, I nearly changed my job: I fancied operating a large concrete ball used to knock down the walls, but my offer was turned down. Now only the front block remains, with happy memories of cheese sandwiches toasted in the fire that heated my office. It was not all bad, and at least there are masses of homes and services to help the elderly now.

Monica

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QUARTERLY VILLAGE DIARY

July 2023 – September 2023

Sun 9 July	Wine Circle – Summer Event - Jazz & Picnic		Contact Wine Circle
Mon 10 July	The Players - Meeting	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 13 July	Gardening Club – Out Meeting		
Wed 19 July	EC Primary School Leavers – Tea Party		St, Michael's Church
Tues 25 July	Poetry – Open Meeting	7.30pm	Village Café
Tues 25 July	Mobile Library	11.50am – 12.10pm	Helyar Arms
Sun 20 July	BBQ	1.000pm	The Chapel
Wed 2 Aug	Wine Circle – Tasting from Cologne	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 10 Aug	Gardening Club – Ascension Island -Marti Young	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 22 Aug	Mobile Library	11.50am – 12.10pm	Helyar Arms
Thurs 31 Aug	WI – Talk on Beekeeping	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 6 Sept	Wine Circle – Talk by Brian Landes OBE ICE	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 17 Sept	Bishop Michael – 900 th Anniversary		St Mary's Church, Hardington
Tue 19 Sept	Mobile Library	11.50am – 12.10pm	Helyar Arms
Wed 27 Sept	Copy for Octobers Newsletter		
Thurs 28 Sept	WI – Open Evening - Magical Entertainment	7.30pm	East Coker Hall

Art Classes Autumn term, see page 5:

Beginning Tues 5 September	1.05pm – 3.05pm	East Coker Hall
Beginning Wed 6 September	1.30pm – 3.30pm	East Coker Hall
Beginning Sat 9 September	10.00am – 12.00pm	East Coker Hall