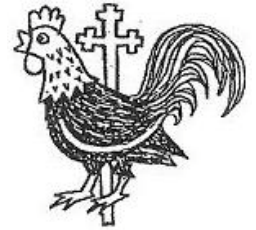


East Coker Society Newsletter



OCTOBER 2008

Free Issue No 132

Chair: John Sugg	863435	westcountry4cars@tiscali.co.uk
Newsletter Editor: Lesley Lindsay	862868	L.Lindsay@eastcoker.com
Secretary: Sarah Owen	862218	
Treasurer: Keith Helliard	863700	

East Coker Society News

RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL

We greatly appreciate delivery by e-mail as it saves money on our printing costs so if in future you would like to help by receiving the Newsletter via e-mail, please e-mail L.Lindsay@eastcoker.com with your name and postal address so you can be removed from our delivery lists.

Your e-mail address will be kept entirely private, with no cross-referencing of other people's e-mails.

For those already receiving the Newsletter by e-mail, please e-mail L.Lindsay@eastcoker.com if you change your e-mail address.

WINTER FAYRE – Saturday 29 November 2008; 2.00pm – 4.00pm at the East Coker Hall

Please come and support the Winter Fayre. There will be many stalls of Christmas interest including Cakes; Bric-a-Brac; Books; Paintings; Pottery; Jewellery; Raffle and many more. Good for Christmas shopping!

The East Coker Society is holding a Cake Stall at the Winter Fayre, so any contributions will be gratefully received.

Interested Stallholders – Book early! Tables for the Winter Fayre are available. The price is £1.50 a foot, for 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 foot tables. Setting up of tables will be from 1.00pm onwards.

Individuals or organisations who wish to reserve a table should please fill in the form below, and send it with either cash or a cheque, by 15 November at the latest, made payable to **East Coker Society**, to Carol Blackmore, Pippins, Higher Burton, East Coker 862192.

This will make certain your stall is reserved.

✂-----✂-----✂-----✂-----✂-----✂

WINTER FAYRE SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2008

Name of Organisation.....

Type of Stall.....

Contact Name and Telephone Number.....

Size of table at £1. 50 per foot..... I enclose £.....Signed.....

✂-----✂-----✂-----✂-----✂-----✂

A REMINDER: BRITISH SUMMER TIME ENDS – 26 OCTOBER 2008 – Clocks go back 1 hour

A NEW 'MUST-HAVE' ITEM!

The new East Coker Bag is a **'must-have'** item if you live in East Coker! The cotton shopper is available with either long or short handles, and has the East Coker Cockerel on one side. Environmentally friendly, and good for the 'green' consumer! Available from the East Coker P.O. & Store or Sarah Owen 862218

VILLAGE DIARY 2009

The 2009 Diary is now at The Village Store, and can be found at the back of the shop on the bottom shelf near the stationary. **Please could village organisations put their forthcoming events in the Diary to avoid the doubling up of these events.** Thank you.

Village Clubs and Organisations

EAST COKER ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

We are holding an 'It's a Woman's World Evening' on Tuesday 7 October 2008 at the East Coker Hall 7.00pm for 7.30pm. There will be a fashion show and many demonstrations of beauty, accessories and well being.

Tickets are £10 (including a glass of wine and refreshments) and are available from Angie Mead 862972 or Barb Raison 862553.

NB Due to Ann Widdecombe having to attend a memorial service of a close friend on 27 November, the speaker's lunch has had to be changed to **Friday 28 November** – same venue – same time. We will be contacting everyone who has already purchased tickets within the next week or so to issue new tickets or offer a refund if the new date is not convenient.

We apologise for any disappointment this will cause but the situation was out of our hands.

Anyone still wanting tickets, which are £30 for a two-course lunch with wine at the new Tithe Barn at Haselbury Mill, Nr Crewkerne, at 12 midday, please contact Jane Donnelly on 478409.

THE COKER 400 CLUB

The winners for August are: £100 Mrs G Mead; £50 Mrs J Donnelly; £40 Mr & Mrs M Mead; £30 Mr J Mornement; £20 Mr P Pritchard; £15 Mr T Clough; £10 Mr J Burgess; £10 Mr R Mainprize

The 400 Club have been pleased to send donations of £500 to both The Pavilion and The Almshouse Appeal and will be making further donations to charitable causes in November. Anyone wishing to join the 400 Club, please contact Mike Weston 862472, Gloria Mead 862384, Mary Ashley 862263 or Arthur Rees 862828

EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

Following a successful Wine Festival held under the auspices of the East Coker Flower Show in August when entries were up on the previous year, East Coker Wine Circle is now well into its autumn/winter programme. The Wine Circle normally meets on the first Wednesday in the month at the East Coker Hall when the programme includes wine-related talks as well as some of a general interest. At the November meeting, Ron Westmass will be talking on 'The Sky at Night' and in December there will be the traditional commercial wine tasting and bread-making competition. There are classes for white and brown and another for machine made bread. The theme party in January will be 'A Summer Holiday' when there will be dancing and entertainment to suit all tastes. The usual sumptuous two-course meal is also being planned. Further inquiries to the secretary, Joyce Pryor 862816

Diary Dates

5 November	The Sky at Night Speaker Ron Westmass
3 December	Commercial wine-tasting and bread-making competition
10 January	Annual theme party – 'A Summer Holiday'

EAST COKER PLAYERS

The future of the Players looks very bleak at the moment. There will be no Pantomime this year. As a group we have audience support but not enough active members to actually put on a big production i.e. Pantomime. The suspension or even closure of the group could be imminent. The Committee have been trying hard to keep the group together since the AGM in January, where the subject of the group's future was discussed.

We desperately need an injection of new members with enthusiasm, ideas and commitment. If you think you can help us in any way, please contact us. It would be sad to lose a village group that has been entertaining the village for many years.

On a brighter note, we had a lovely BBQ at the Vicarage in July. Thank you to everyone who helped with the evening.

We will be holding a December Social night on Friday 5 December at 7.30pm for members and guests. It will be an open entertainment evening with American Supper. Put your thinking caps on now. How would you like to entertain your fellow members? Try a monologue or poem, get together with someone else and sing a duet, play your musical instrument or tell a few jokes! Start practising now. It only needs to be a couple of minutes long and on any subject. Invitations and full details will be sent out by the Secretary who is organising the evening, in early November. Let's make it a good one.


East Coker Players AGM will be held on Monday 12 January 2009 Dampier Room – 7.30pm. All welcome. Please put this date in your diary. We need to see all members past and present. The future of the group will be decided at this meeting.

Hazel Giddings (Love) Secretary 429163 Nora White Treasurer 477897

EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

Tuesday 21 October Results of the Poetry Competition
Tuesday 25 November 'Night Poetry' – hosted by Diana Turton

All meetings are at The Helyar Arms, East Coker, 7.30pm. Everyone welcome. Contact details – David Cloke 862623 or Joyce Best 862317



Live comfortably in your body

Receiving massage regularly will help to relax your whole body and can ease and/or heal certain ailments, such as joint and muscle stiffness/pain, frozen shoulder, backache & sciatica, posture & mobility issues, headaches & migraines, high blood pressure, poor circulation & fluid retention, insomnia/fatigue and other stress related problems. It will also contribute to your general sense of well being and aliveness and can help to release emotions held deeply in the body, relieving anxiety and depression.

I am a qualified massage practitioner trained at the Bristol College of Massage and Bodywork and a member of the Massage Training Institute. I live and work in East Coker. My treatments incorporate a wide range of techniques which will be adapted to your needs at the time. You can expect to be treated with sensitivity and respect at all times in a peaceful environment.

To have an informal chat and/or book an appointment call Rosie on 01935 862767 or 07733 121819. Local home visits can be arranged if necessary.

EAST COKER PAVILION FUND UPDATE

Auction of Promises – Friday, 10 October 2008

As you are probably aware, we were not successful in obtaining any large grants and, therefore, were sadly unable to build the Pavilion we had hoped for.

However, this said, with the help and support of everyone in the village and the surrounding area, we have raised enough money to extend and significantly improve the existing Pavilion, which is now being enjoyed by all who use it.

However, in order to fulfil our promise to the footballers who use the facilities on an almost daily basis, we still need to raise more funds to provide them with better changing rooms, showers, etc, along with some other essential works such as re-wiring.

We have hosted several fundraising events over the years but our most successful, by far, was an Auction of Promises which we held as long ago as January 2004. We have therefore decided to revive this event as a last ditch attempt to raise funds for the existing building.

The Auction is going to take place on Friday, 10 October 2008 at the East Coker Hall. Doors open at 7.30pm, with the Auction commencing at 8.00 pm. There will be a Licensed Bar available until 11.30pm, with cheese and biscuits served during the course of the evening.

We have already received a number of promises, ranging from home-baked cakes and babysitting to holiday homes in Spain and glider flights! If you feel that you have a promise you can offer, please contact Bridget Sugg on **863435** or Paula Downes on **862264** and let them have details as soon as possible. Booklets containing details of all Promises available on the evening will be circulated around the village nearer the time.

Even if you cannot offer a promise, please come along and show your support on the evening and bring your friends.

This is our final ever fundraiser and we very much appreciate your continued support.

EAST COKER W.I.

Following our successful meal celebrating our 90th birthday, in June, and the birthday outing to Windsor Castle, in July, we held our postponed Open Evening in August, with a talk by the naturalist and broadcaster Chris Sperring. This was very well attended by other Institutes and also interested villagers. Now we look forward to the rest of the year.

At the end of September we heard about Somerset Carnivals, especially Bridgwater Carnival, the main one in South-west England. In November, David Pryor shows his skill at audio-visual presentation with reminiscences' from East Coker W.I.'s activities over the last few years and also his perception of East Coker, and a few short presentations of places both in England and abroad. December is the month we find somewhere to enjoy a traditional Christmas meal.

Visitors are always welcome to any of our meetings, and from October newcomers are able to pay an annual subscription which will be viable until January 2010. We aim to arrange both informative and entertaining speakers as well as arranging other activities such as craft days, whist drives and skittles for those who wish to take part.

Our next whist drive will be held on Thursday, 16 October at the East Coker Hall at 7.30pm

Diary dates are:

Thursday 30 October W.I. AGM – East Coker Hall 7.30pm
Tuesday 4 November W.I. Craft Day – Christian Fellowship Hall 10.00am- 4.00pm
Thursday 20 November Whist Drive – East Coker Hall 7.30pm
Thursday 27 November W.I. Audio-visual Show – East Coker Hall 7.30pm
Thursday 18 December Whist Drive – East Coker Hall 7.30pm

We meet the last Thursday of each month at 7.30pm at the East Coker Hall. Any further information can be obtained from secretary, Linda Morgan, tel. 863694.

EAST/WEST COKER ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Annual Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 25 October at East Coker Hall from 10.00am – 12 noon. Please come along for a coffee and chat. There will be a cake and produce stall. Our work in the community is vital, not only for the welfare of local members, but also to maintain the standard of support to service members and families. We look forward to welcoming you.

The Royal British Legion

The East/West Coker Branch has a role to play by recruiting new members and retaining the present.

The Legion helps on a whole range of issues, including help with the correct pension and benefits, welfare grants, convalescent and nursing care including short breaks, home and hospital visits, help with small businesses and many more. Anyone can join the Legion, and youth members from the age of 14 years.

Service personnel can be sent on active service now at just seventeen and a half years old so veterans are much younger than people realise. There has been only one year (1968) since the Second World War when a British service person has not been killed on active service.

The Legion will be needed for as long as people continue to be affected by conflict, it does not advocate war but it is there to support those who have been prepared to make a personal sacrifice through serving in the British Armed Forces.

Your membership fee, on joining your local branch, of £11 per year will ensure that we can continue the work in helping Legion members and their dependants.

Please support you local branch so that we may continue this important role for our service personnel.

Chairman David Holland 862782

Secretary Marilyn Smith 863944

EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

The meetings of the Club cover a fairly wide range of topics relating to the countryside, but 'hands on' gardening has not been abandoned. Two of the summer meetings were definitely of that type: 'Plants for Late Summer Interest' was a colourful presentation by Marie-Elaine Houghton on 14 August and 'Gardening in Tune with Nature', describing the creation of the environmental functions of the 'Sticky Wicket' site in Dorset was explained by Pam Lewis on 11 September.

The talk on the Barn Owl Trust on 10 July gave a compelling insight into the behaviour and homeground of this beautiful bird and problems facing its survival. The evening on canal boat painting 'Roses and Castles' by Clem Pryor on 9 October promises to be a bright one.

There were 25 entries for the 'Potato in a Container Competition' which was judged by Bob and Gloria Mead on 14 August. Rachel Blow was the winner with 3lb.8ozs, closely followed by Nora White (3lbs.5ozs) and Don White (3lbs). Two days later, members of the Club were prominent among the winners in the East Coker Flower Show.

The Autumn programme is set out below. Highlights are the visit to Brimsmore Christmas 'fairyland' on 4 November and the December meeting, which will be accompanied by seasonal cheer!

Thursday 9 October Clem Pryor on 'Roses and Castles'

Tuesday 4 November Open Evening at Brimsmore Garden Centre for discount shopping. **NB 6.30pm**

Thursday 13 November AGM at the Quicksilver Mail, Yeovil, followed by a meal and skittles

Thursday 11 December 'Plants for Christmas' presented by staff from Brimsmore Garden Centre – mulled wine and mince pies will be served.

Thursday 8 January 2009 'Butterflies and Flowers of Europe' described and shown by Alison and Nigel Charles

Advance Notice

Plans for the Spring 2009 Holiday are complete. This will be a four-day trip to West Sussex, based on a Best Western Hotel in Hove with visits to well-known gardens in the area. The dates are 5-8 May. Some bookings have already been received as these holidays are very popular. Enquiries to numbers below.

Meetings are usually held in the East Coker Hall on the second Thursday in the month at 7.30pm unless otherwise announced. Visitors and new members are always welcome. For further information contact the Hon-Secretary, Catherine Denny on 862294, or the Hon-Treasurer, Stan Shaylor on 420291.

Young People

EAST COKER SCHOOL PTFA

Christmas Craft & Pamper Evening – Friday 28 November 2008, 7.00pm until 9:30pm

Following the success of the Craft/Pamper Evening we held at Easter, we are currently organising a follow-up event.

There will be a variety of stalls selling Hand Made Cards including Quilling & Paper Filigree Cards, Jewellery, Merino & Hand Painted Glass, Party Crafts, Pampered Chef, Mini IQ, Partylite, Hand Made Bags, Phoenix Cards, Gifts & Accessories for Babies & Children, Home wares, Wax Crafts & Gifts, Christmas Tree Decorations and many more.

Alongside the Craft Fair there will be pre-booked pampering treatments, £5 for each 20 minute treatment. These include Reflexology, Shiatsu, Holistic Massage, Hand Massage, Manicures, Sugaring (eyebrow shaping), Mini Facial, Nail extension demo and more.

You can book your pamper treatments from 3 November 2008 by telephoning Louise on 420244 after 7:30pm.

Treatments will be offered on a 'first come' first served basis.

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MURDER MYSTERY NIGHT – Death by Radio Play

Castle Cary Players are holding a 'Murder Mystery Night' at East Coker Hall on Saturday 4 October from 7.15 pm.

Please come in costume (if you want too).

£7.50 includes a two- course meal and a glass of wine (more can be bought on the night). Tickets from 850802. In aid of Girl-guiding Yeovil Division – Bright Sparks.

YOUTH PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council has been exploring the possibility of forming a Youth Parish Council. If a Youth Parish Council were to be established, it would obviously need youngsters to come forward to form it. However, it is also clear that adult support would be essential for a project like this to succeed. The Parish Council is keen to know if there are any community minded adults willing to take a leading role in, and be the focal point for, the establishment of a Youth Parish Council.

If you are interested and require more information please contact: Barrie Hartley 862060

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

Autumn Jumble Sale Saturday 18 October, East Coker Hall from 2.00pm.

REMEMBER WE WILL COLLECT: Contact Max Bugler 862128

Newspaper Collections: Sat 25 October Sat 29 November Sat 27 December

We are very pleased that our Cub Scout section will be restarting in September under the leadership of Mike Holliday, with Gill MacPherson taking over the Beavers. This makes the Group whole again and allows the steady flow through the sections that ensures the growth of the Group.

We had a hectic end to the summer term as we hosted visitors from America. Troop 451 from Durham, North Carolina first met East Coker Scouts three years ago at 'Eurojam' and our Scouts have already been to the States. During their brief stay, our visitors were given a guided tour of the village, played skittles, visited Brownsea Island (the home of the first ever Scout Camp) and enjoyed an evening of rounders and a BBQ at the Scout Hut. Troop 451 travelled on to Ireland for the Irish Jamboree (celebrating 100 years of Irish Scouting) and took four East Coker Explorer Scouts with them. Jack, Johnnie, Chris and Ashley had a great, but wet, time during the ten day camp.

The new season has begun and information has already been sent out to the Scouts for a local day hike, a weekend camping and hiking on Exmoor and a day Letterboxing on Dartmoor. Five-a-side football and a night-time challenge competition are to follow – all before December!

We have a friendly and active Group and if there is anyone in the village who is able to offer their time, either as a leader or for a specific activity please contact us. Beaver Scouts 6 - 8 years old Wednesday 5.30pm - 6.45pm; Cub Scouts 8 - 10 years old Tuesday 6.30pm - 8.00pm; Scouts 10½-14 years old Friday 7.00pm - 9.00pm. Contact David Webber 474648

The Churches

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Services

Every Wednesday 7.30am – 1662 Service

Sunday 19 October 6.00pm – One World Week – a special themed Evening Service

Sunday 26 October 6.00pm – (when the clocks change) – 'Cool Sunday' – no heating in the church. Wear extra coats, vests, etc and know you will be helping to save £50+ in fuel costs which will be sent to 'Tearfund' to support communities which are already suffering from the effects of global warming – climate change causing floods, droughts, failed harvests etc.

Saturday 1 November 6.30pm – All Saints Bonfire at the Vicarage. Adults £5 children free. BBQ available.

Sunday 9 November Service of Remembrance at 10.50am when all uniformed groups are very welcome to parade with their banners and flags, as an act of thanksgiving for those who died in the past major conflicts.

Friday 19 December East Coker School Carol Service

Sunday 21 December Carol Service 6.00pm. All are very welcome to be there.

Monday 22 December Carol singing around the village, starting at 7.00pm – Meet at Tellis Cross

Christmas Eve 11.00pm Midnight Mass & Carols

Christmas Day 8.00am Holy Communion. 10.00am Family Service

Sunday 28 December 8.00am Holy Communion. 10.00am Family Service. 6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 4 January 2009 Epiphany 10.00am Family Service.

Service for those we love but no longer see

This year the service will be on 2 November at St Michael's Church at 6.00pm. The Preacher will be the Rev Rose Hoskins, who is a vicar in the Vale Parishes, and is also Archdeaconry Warden of Readers. Rose was a Reader at Hardington before her ordination and has preached a number of times here at East Coker.

It would be helpful if people could let me have the names of their loved ones they would like to have read out by 26 October. Many thanks.

Monica 862834

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH CLOSWORDH

Christmas at Closwordh

The first service of Christmas will be the Carol Service on 14 December at 6.30pm. Please come and support us.

On Christmas Eve 24 December we hold our special Nativity at 4.00pm. If you have children, please let them dress up as Kings, Shepherds, Angels, or as children from other lands. We are hoping to have a real baby Jesus this year in which case his mother will play the part of Mary. The service lasts for about 30 minutes and is quite informal and enjoyable for both young and old.

Closwordh Family Service


We hold this on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 10.00am. It is a short informal service with the children.

Sunday 9 November 6.30pm – Remembrance Service

Christmas Day 9.00am – Holy Eucharist

Monica 862834

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ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SUTTON BINGHAM

Sunday Holy Communion 1662

5 October – 9.00am

2 November – 9.00am (All Saints' Festival)

7 December – 9.00am

4 January 2009 – 9.00am

19 October – 11.30am

16 November – 11.30am

Christmas Day – 11.30am

18 January – 11.30am

Carol Service Tuesday 16 December – 6.30pm

The porch roof has now been beautifully restored but funds are needed to complete the repair of the church roof and fabric. The Coffee Morning generously hosted by The Helyar Arms raised a splendid £400. Further money was raised by the bicycle and horse ride on 13 September round local churches for the Somerset Churches Trust which has given a percentage to All Saints'. A percentage of the money from the sale of watercolours at the Vicarage on 20 September has also been given to the church.

All this goes some way towards the cost of these essential repairs. In addition, a scheme for sponsoring a tile at £20 each, as special tiles are needed, is proving helpful. Forms for this exercise are obtainable from the Churchwardens (details below), or at the church.

This is the time to remind people who enjoy the Annual Candlelit Christmas Carol Service that it is advisable to come early to make sure of a good seat! Contributions of sausage rolls or mince pies towards the seasonal refreshments afterwards are always welcome.

Churchwardens

Mrs Carol Blackmore 862192

Mr Antony Denning 474294

www.eastcoker.com

EAST COKER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, BURTON LANE

Thank You. A sincere thank you to all those who supported the Cream Tea afternoon on 14 September. The sum of £145.06 was raised for St. Margaret's Hospice.

Coffee Stop. The Hall is open every Wednesday from 11.00am until 1.00pm for coffee and tea. All are welcome to come along and it is simply meant to be a place where friends can get together for a chat. There is no charge for the refreshments.

Bible Discussion. We hold a Bible Discussion group in the Chapel on alternate Wednesday evenings. This is a joint meeting with the Mill Church and if anyone would like to join us or form another study or discussion group please contact Kevin Chapman for details of dates and times.

Weekly Meetings. 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays 11.00am – Worship Service (incorporating Communion).
2nd Sunday 11.00am – Family Service

Harvest Thanksgiving. Sunday 12 October, 11.00am

Christmas Services. Yes, I know it's a long way off, but nearer than you think!

Family Service, 11.00am Sunday 14 December

Carol Service, 4.00pm Sunday 21 December (followed by tea)

Carolling around the village, 6.00pm Friday 19 December (starting from the chapel), followed by soup and rolls. We don't collect any money whilst carolling; we just do it for the joy of it. Other services as announced. **All** are welcome to **all** of our services.

'For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.' John's Gospel, chapter 3, verse 16 – The Gospel in a nutshell.

Kevin Chapman is available in the village each Tuesday and Wednesday. He can be contacted on 0781 2726853 or 422594 or email ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk Please do feel free to contact him if you have any queries about the Christian faith or if you would like someone to pray with you or simply to talk to.

BIBLE MID-WEEK MEETINGS

Wednesday 15 October	Speaker Brian Ruff
Wednesday 19 November	Speaker Jeremy White
Wednesday 17 December	Carol Service Paul Clarke

These meetings take place in the East Coker Hall at 7.00pm. Do join us and bring your friends. Refreshments are served after each meeting.

For further details contact Roy Hodder 862519 or Edward Armistead 862785

Village News

THE ALMSHOUSES CHARITY

The Coffee Morning held on 25 July was a great success. £400 was raised with a further £500 in donations received on the day. Many thanks to the Helyar Arms for hosting the event and to all those kind people who donated raffle prizes and made cakes. Also, many thanks to all who supported us on the day.

Work started at the beginning of September, and, Surprise! Surprise! Once the roof was off it was found that new timbers were needed. This and other extras have obviously increased the cost.

We are still short of our target cost of £40,000 and so we must, regrettably, continue with our fund-raising efforts.

Your help to date, and hopefully to follow, is much appreciated.

Arthur Rees 862828; Roger Burt 862125 (Trustees)

CHRISTMAS BINGO

Christmas Bingo in aid of St Margaret's Hospice (Yeovil) at East Coker Hall on Saturday 6 December 2008. Doors open at 7.00pm with eyes down at 7.30pm. Hampers; wine; chocolates + children's prizes to be won. Refreshments available. For more details please contact Nora White 477897

WEA – EAST COKER BRANCH – AUTUMN 2008

Round the World Explorers – Tutor: John Price

Six meetings on Tuesdays 2.30pm – 4.00pm starting 30 September at East Coker Hall. Fee £28.

Courses are free to anyone in receipt of means tested benefit. To pre-enrol, please contact Sarah Smith 862466

Next term: T S Eliot tutored by Dr Henry Merritt

NEWS FROM DR COX & DR COTTON, WESTLAKE SURGERY

The Surgery will be holding two Flu Clinics at West Coker Club where vaccinations will be available to those over 65 and the 'At Risk Groups': Respiratory Disease; Heart Disease; Kidney Disease; Liver Disease; Diabetes; a weak immune system; Stroke.

The Clinics will be held on Tuesday 7 October and Thursday 16 October 2008 from 2.00pm – 4.00pm. There are parking facilities at the Club, and as before there will be Tea and Coffee as fund-raising for Charity.

The Doctors would like to encourage all eligible patients to attend the Clinics as it is usually quicker and easier than attending the Surgery. For those who are unable to get to these Clinics, appointments will be available to book once the Clinics have been completed.

Extended Hours

Dr Cox and Dr Cotton are pleased to announce that from Monday 30 June 2008, they will be opening later on a Monday evening. Pre-bookable appointments with Dr Cotton will be available from 6.30 – 7.30 pm and may be booked in the usual way via reception. The dispensary will be open at the same time.

We hope this will prove to be of use to our patients, enabling greater access for those who struggle to find convenient appointment times at present and also by increasing the number of routine appointments available.

NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE STORE

It's two months since the Post Office closed and most people will have seen the changes we have made in the shop. We are still selling books of postage stamps but regret that the bill payment service we hoped to introduce will not be going ahead. We are sorry for any inconvenience but the system was inadequate and unreliable.

Dare we say it but Christmas is approaching and, as is tradition, we will be holding our Christmas display again this year. The display will be in store on Wednesday 5 November until Friday 7 November. Please come along and see what Christmas goodies we have for you to order.

For those of you who don't know, we have changed the telephone number. If you need to contact us please call 862711. As this is our home telephone number as well we would appreciate it if any issues relating to the shop be kept to shop hours. A reminder of our opening hours:

Monday to Friday	7.30am to 5.30pm (Closed for lunch 1.00pm till 2.00pm)
Saturday	7.30am to 1.00pm
Sunday	8.00am to 12.00 noon

We will keep you informed on any developments relating to the store. We are still committed to making it the best we can and welcome any feedback good or bad (but preferably good!) on the changes or new stock lines.

Vicki and Paul Moorhouse

SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY

The mobile Library visits on a Thursday – the times and dates for the stops in 2008/09 are:

East Coker

Helyar Arms	11.45am – 12 noon	North Coker Bus Shelter	12.05pm – 12 25pm
Meadow View	12.30pm – 12.50pm	Maudesley Fields	12.55pm – 13.15pm

Sutton Bingham Bower Farm 13.25pm – 13.45pm

Dates: 2 October 23 October 13 November 4 December 15 January 2009

THE HELYAR ARMS

Charity Coffee Mornings – 10.00am - 12 noon

Friday 31 October

Friday 28 November Little Acorns, Evershot

The Helyar have been hosting the popular Coffee Mornings on the last Friday of every month. We are in danger of losing this **EVERY** month due to staffing problems. Rather than losing these great 'get-togethers' Cherry and I have said that we will help to keep them going. We need your support!

The pub is still happy to provide the **FREE** venue and coffee as long as the Charity produce raffle prizes, cakes etc. As these mornings are enjoyed by so many of us, whatever the charity, we are asking if any of you marvellous cooks would be prepared to make a cake if the Charity cannot manage to make enough themselves?

Please think about your own favourite Charities and book a Friday. It is a fun and simple way of raising money and a great opportunity for a get-together. We would like to hold these mornings every last Friday in the month. If we have no specific Charity, please come along, pay your entrance fee and the proceeds will go to a local deserving cause. We look forward to seeing lots of you!

Any enquiries please ring Penny on 863055 or Cherry on 863313

Quiz Night

Held on the last Sunday of every month. Four persons per team at £5 per team. Good fun for everyone

Christmas Day Lunch – The Helyar Arms will be open for food

DANCE FOR FITNESS & FUN – CLASSES FOR THE OVER 50's

Part of the Step Change Dance for Health Project 2008 – 2010

We will be offering dance sessions for the Over 50's in your area this Autumn. A team of qualified and experienced dance practitioners have joined **Take Art** to provide dance sessions which will help increase flexibility and fitness in a friendly atmosphere. We will warm-up, learn sequences to music and even create our own steps.

To have a go, please come along to our taster sessions at East Coker Hall on Thursday 25 September, 2 October and 9 October from 9.30am – 11.00am. From November onwards, taster groups from East Coker and East Chinnock will merge to form one group who will continue working together for the rest of the year.

To register interest or to find more information about this project, please call Anna Golding from the Step Change Team on 01460 249450 or email anna@takeart.org

WESSEX MORRIS MEN

We would like to thank The Helyar Arms and all the East Coker people who turned out to watch us dance there back in July. It really makes a difference to dance in front of an appreciative audience, and a generous one too.

Thank you very much. We hope to see you again next year. Paul Chesterman, Deputy Squire, Wessex Morris Men. www.wessexmorrismen.co.uk

SAM WEALE'S OLYMPICS

I thought you may like to know how Sam got on at the Olympics. First, on behalf of Sam, I would like to say a big thank you to the people in the village who sponsored Sam.

Although he gets lottery funding, it is only enough to live off and all the extras like good nutritious food, sport supplement drinks, and some of his kit, he has to find himself. Every little bit helped.

We were delighted with Sam's performance and were extremely proud of the great strength of character he showed in clawing his way back from 25th in the shoot to finish in 10th position in his first Olympic final. He was ranked 27th in the world, coming into the Olympics, so it was an amazing result. He made a bit of a slow start in the shooting discipline after a score of 177 out of 200 points. He said nerves got to him a bit at the start but picked up well as he settled down. He thoroughly enjoyed the fencing and returned a good score of 18 victories and 17 defeats which gave him a score of 832 points and 13th position in that discipline which moved him up to 19th. He then did a personal best in the swim which moved him up to 11th. He was 8th rider to start in the riding discipline and after watching the first seven riders fall off, crash into the barriers and generally hardly score any points, I was a nervous wreck. So when Sam scored 1036 points and managed to get round in one piece we were delighted. He was now in 12th place. He had a cracking run which even he was surprised at, considering he hadn't been able to run for weeks with a knee injury. He overtook two athletes and finished strongly in 10th position. It was an amazing experience and worth all the years of hard work to get there.

Now to the big question. How about 2012? "We shall see," he said. He did say it was an amazing atmosphere and lovely to have thousands of people watching and what would it be like in England with the majority of the crowd British – so it is obviously in his mind but I think it depends on how his body holds out. I always liken him to Kelly Holmes. You always knew she had a lot of talent but was plagued by injuries, and look what she finally achieved, so who knows!

Annette Weale

SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE FOR ST. MARGARET'S HOSPICE

Well I did it! Along with my fellow cyclists Ian Gardner & Steve Vellacott, cycling from London to Paris!

What an experience – 305 miles is a long way! But the weather was kind, organisation superb and the pain was bearable as was cycling through the lovely undulating French countryside – I thought France was flat!!

Day 1 London to Calais via a ferry from Dover

Day 2 Calais to Abbeville

Day 3 Abbeville to Beauvais

Day 4 Beauvais to Paris

The thrill of cycling down the Champs de Elysee to the Eiffel Tower was unforgettable

An experience never to be forgotten and all for the worthwhile cause of St. Margaret's Hospice. Together, we hope to raise in the region of £8000.

Many thanks to all our sponsors, family and friends who supported us. Now I hear there is a sponsored ride from Paris to Geneva!!!

Andrew McDougall AMcdoug105@aol.com

EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

David Lewis, our Police Community Support Officer (9447), attended the September meeting of the Parish Council and he was especially concerned about thefts from sheds, barns and outbuildings. He suggested the use of 'SmartWater' forensic fluid as a means of identifying property and especially the advertising of your use of it by posters, which act as a deterrent to potential thieves, as once marked, property is always identifiable with your own bar code. Both East Coker and Sutton Bingham churches are 'SmartWater' marked. Web site: www.smartwater.com for more details.

To contact David Lewis if you have any concerns, please ring his voice mail on 0845 456 7000. He will return your call as soon as possible – for instance, if you feel that a vehicle is excessively speeding through the village, please take its number and pass it on to him.

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Owners are blatantly allowing their dogs to use the Pavilion pitches uncontrolled and thus dogs are fouling the playing areas **while their owners sit in their cars!** This is inexcusable. Car numbers will be passed to the police for further action. Team leaders have to clean up pitches before matches, and this should not be necessary. Banning the walking of dogs at the Pavilion is virtually unenforceable, and unfair to those who act responsibly, so it is down to dog owners to respect others.

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Please make sure that your dogs are on leads at all times on footpaths through farmland. Ewes will be in lamb through the next few months and vulnerable to dog worrying. Please also make sure that your dog is regularly wormed to reduce the infection (through faeces) which causes ewes to abort their lambs. Please clean up after your dog wherever you walk.

There have been no offers to help to set up a Youth Council – if anyone feels that they can be of assistance please let the Parish Clerk know as soon as possible.

South West Trains has plans to restrict the opening hours of the ticket offices at local stations, leaving them unmanned. The Parish Clerk has a petition objecting to this. Pauline Gubbins: 862062.

As the summer ends, please trim hedges that overhang roads, paths and pavements for the safety of others and it would be much appreciated if you would clear any litter that may have accumulated outside your property.

NOTES FROM THE OBSERVATORY

Autumnal Equinox – 22 September 2008.

It has not been a good summer. Apart from a pleasantly warm week in late July and a settled spell in mid-September, the last three months have been cool, damp and generally overcast. A succession of Atlantic lows has once again given us a typically British summer. But we should be thankful that we are not in the line of the tropical storms and hurricanes that have recently ravaged the Caribbean and Southern States of the USA or the floods that affected so much of our country last year.

Rainfall here has been higher than last year with 199mm (7.83ins) falling in July/September. There were 40 rain days in the period. So far this year we have had a total of 669mm (26.34ins) of rain. Our highest daytime shade temperature was 26.2C (79.2F) on 15 July. Conversely, the lowest night time temperature was on 18 September at 5.4C (42.5F). The warm week in July raised the mains cold-water temperature to 19.5C (67F) falling to 16C (60.8F) by mid-September.

Two poor summers in a row have had an effect on wild life. Our hedges in early summer are usually white

continued/

with Cow Parsley or Queen Anne's Lace. This year the display was much reduced. Yet grass verges were brightened in summer by a generous display of yellow Birdsfoot Trefoil.

Insect life this year has been affected. Few bees have appeared while ant numbers are very low. Perhaps a couple of wet years have affected the larval stage (leather jackets) of crane-flies (daddy-longlegs), for I have seen few this autumn, usually a time for lots to be seen waiting to come indoors in the cooler evenings.

There has been a marked decline in our usual butterflies. Small Tortoiseshells, usually seen in large numbers, have been a rare sight. Curiously, the Comma, once considered a rare sighting, seems to have replaced the Small Tortoiseshell as the one most frequently seen this year. Others, seen in small numbers, have been Speckled Woods, Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns, Red Admirals, Small Blues and Brimstones. I received a report of Silver-washed Fritillaries in a village garden and at Pendomer. The most numerous butterflies have been the Large Whites, usually a plague on cabbages. This year, in the absence of planted cabbages, they have been laying their eggs on radishes left to flower and seed that are members of the same cabbage family *Cruciferae*. Whites were still flying in mid-September. Some late flying wasps and flies enjoyed a nectar meal from ivy flowers, opening a little earlier than usual this year.

A couple of Green Woodpeckers appeared on my lawn in July, perhaps seeking a meal of ants but soon left having found nothing. I was surprised to see blackbirds and song thrushes feeding on my lawn in harmony. Usually blackbirds see off the more timid thrushes from their feeding grounds. A wood pigeon fed from a high bunch of ripe elderberries. A pile of white feathers under a shrub was evidence of a pigeon being taken by a raptor.

Soon it will be Halloween. Let us see if a piece of weather lore forecasts Christmas weather:

'If ducks do slide at Hallowtide,
At Christmas they will swim;
If ducks do swim at Hallowtide,
At Christmas they will slide'.

Jupiter has been a brilliant sight low in the southern sky but will move to the west and out of sight by mid-October. No planets will appear in the autumn night sky to replace it, but the brightest star, Sirius, will appear below the great winter constellation, Orion, as we move into midwinter. The star cluster Pleiades will soon be visible high in the southern sky as it heralds the appearance of Orion. On the night of November 17/18 the Leonid meteor shower should be seen but peaking at the inconvenient time of 1.00am.

Francis Cloke 86 2496

HAPPY MEMORIES – A PERSONAL RECOLLECTION

My grandparents were Charles and Dorothy Taylor, Charles having died in 1960 and whose remains lie in Coker cemetery. Dorothy (Doffy) moved in with her daughter Sylvia in the 1970's and died in 1983 in Staffordshire, a dear and dearly-loved lady.

The Waites were another family we recall, the daughters Carola and Joanna seeming very sophisticated to us as they were a little older and had horses which were kept in the orchard by the cottage. My sisters learnt to ride bicycles in the Waites' garden one summer.

There was a wealth of characters living in the almshouses. Old Daddy and Granny Hilman in the double cottage at the beginning of the row would sometimes accommodate our overspill in their feather bed, and would come up to bed by candlelight and sit up chewing and sucking on chocolate bars, their shadows forming grotesque but comical images on the wall. Mrs Price had ill-fitting dentures and pronounced her S's as Sh so as children we were amused when she asked us to '*Shit down*' and go and '*shit in the park*' with her dog Sherry (who might have been Cherry - we never knew). Lotty Dowel had a deep, manly voice and told the story of her vision. There was also Miss Baker who used to walk to Yeovil each week to do her shopping. One of these ladies had been in service at the court before it became a school. The Boucher family always gave us a warm welcome when we arrived from London. So many characters, so many memories.

Local cider and pickled onions provided the flavour of the place alongside the wonderful mushrooms which we picked in the park, much to the annoyance of the Helyar Arms who were also trying to gather them for their B & B customers.

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The train could be halted at Sutton Bingham – I bet you can't do that now! And thinking of Sutton Bingham, my country cousins made fun of me for saying reservoir when it really should be called 'erzevoy'. We loved to go to Mrs Ray's shop to buy sweets. She would climb up and take down the jars with her knobbly, arthritic fingers and weigh out a quarter of whatever we fancied - lemonade powder, mint imperials, pear drops and tangerine balls. It was such a treat and Mrs Ray was an essential part of it.

For anyone who remains in the village who may remember Mrs Taylor's family who came for the holidays, we were: Dick and Sylvia Jordan – parents Pamela, Elizabeth (Biddy) and Ann – children. Thank you for allowing me to indulge in this journey.

Yours sincerely, Ann Gilman

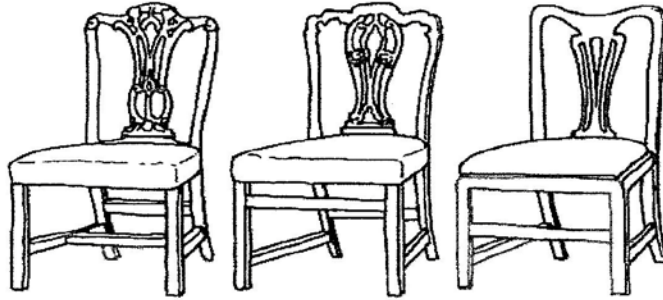
NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in January 2009. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or e-mail L.Lindsay@eastcoker.com or to the East Coker Post Office & Store by **Monday 5 January 2009.**

VILLAGE DIARY October 2008 - January 2009

Tues 7 Oct	Action Medical Research	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Thurs 9 Oct	Gardening Club – Clem Pryor	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 10 Oct	Auction of Promises – Pavilion Fund	East Coker Hall	
Mon 13 Oct	History of the Swan Theatre – TTS	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Mon 13 Oct	Library		
Thurs 16 Oct	W I – Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 18 Oct	Scout Jumble Sale	East Coker Hall	2.00pm
Tues 21 Oct	Poetry Group – Poetry Competition Results	The Helyar Arms	7.30pm
Thurs 23 Oct	Library		
Sat 25 Oct	Craft Competition – Time to Share	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Sat 25 Oct	Coffee Morning – Royal British Legion	East Coker Hall	10.00am – 12 noon
Sat 25 Oct	Scouts Newspaper Collection	Near the School	9.00am - 10.30am
Sun 26 Oct	British Summer Time Ends	Clocks go back	1 hour
Thurs 30 Oct	W I – AGM	Dampier Room	7.30pm
Fri 31 Oct	Charity Coffee Morning	The Helyar Arms	10.00am – 12 noon
Tues 4 Nov	W I – Craft Day	Christian Fellowship Hall	10.00am – 4.00pm
Tues 4 Nov	Gardening Club – Open Evening	Brimsmore	6.30pm
Wed 5 Nov	Wine Circle – Ron Westmass	East Coker Hall	8.00pm
Thurs 13 Nov	Gardening Club – AGM	Quicksilver Mail	7.30pm
Thurs 20 Nov	W I – Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Tues 25 Nov	Poetry Group – 'Night Poetry'	The Helyar Arms	7.30pm
Thurs 27 Nov	W I – Audio-visual Show	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 28 Nov	Craft & Pamper Evening – East Coker School PTFA	East Coker School	7.00pm – 9.30pm
Fri 28 Nov	Action Medical Research – Ann Widdecombe – (new date)	Haselbury Mill	12 noon
Fri 28 Nov	Coffee Morning – Little Acorns, Evershot	The Helyar Arms	10.00am – 12 noon
Sat 29 Nov	ECS – Winter Fayre	East Coker Hall	2.00pm – 4.00pm
Sat 29 Nov	Scouts Newspaper Collection	Near the School	9.00am - 10.30am
Wed 3 Dec	Wine Circle – Wine Tasting	East Coker Hall	8.00pm
Thurs 4 Dec	Library		
Fri 5 December	E C Players – Social Evening	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 6 Dec	Christmas Bingo	East Coker Hall	7'00pm for 7.30pm
Thurs 11 Dec	Gardening Club – Plants for Christmas	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 27 Dec	Scouts Newspaper Collection	Near the School	9.00am - 10.30am
Mon 5 Jan	Copy for January's Newsletter		
Thurs 8 Jan	Gardening Club – 'Butterflies & Flowers of Europe'	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 10 Jan	Wine Circle – Theme Party	East Coker Hall	8.00pm
Mon 12 Jan	EC Players – AGM	Dampier Room	7.30pm
Thurs 15 Jan	Library		

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