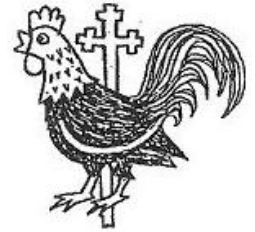


East Coker Society Newsletter



October 2009

Free Issue No 136

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

DISTRIBUTION OF THE NEWSLETTER BY E-MAIL

At the Society's recent AGM the current extremely low number of residents who opt to receive the Newsletter by this means was discussed and the Committee felt it opportune to ask again for those villagers with computers to advise Lesley Lindsay of their e-mail address in order that the considerable cost of printing hard copies can be substantially reduced. It will also ease the occasional difficulties over manual distribution which arises through illness and holidays etc.

Roughly we have 800 households in the village yet only 149 have taken up the e-mail option. In asking for villagers co-operation it is stressed

- a) Individuals' e-mail addresses are secure and will not be disclosed to any other party.
- b) All villagers who wish to continue to receive hard copies of the Newsletter can continue to enjoy this option.
- c) Please remember many e-mail recipients do not print the whole document but only the pages that interest them, particularly the all important calendar of events.

WINTER FAYRE

We are sorry to announce that East Coker Society's Winter Fayre will not be taking place on 28 November 2009. We have been very fortunate to have had Carol Blackmore organising this popular village event for many years, which has helped to raise considerable funds for the publication of the free quarterly Newsletter. Carol now has other commitments with All Saints' Church, Sutton Bingham and asked us earlier this year to find a new co-ordinator. Unfortunately, we have not been successful in recruiting anyone to take over this job. We hope someone will come forward to help us with this event in 2010.

Please contact any of the Committee members if you would like to volunteer. In the meantime, we would like to thank Carol for all her help in the past and every success with her own fund-raising.

THE EAST COKER BAG

The new East Coker Bag is a '**must-have**' item if you live in East Coker! It is also a good Christmas present for posting as it is light in weight. 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 Store, East Coker, or Sarah Owen 862218

VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY 2009

The 2009 Diary is now at The Store, East Coker, and can be found at the back of the shop on the bottom shelf near the stationery. **Please could village organisations put their forthcoming events in the Diary to avoid the dates clashing.** Thank you.

Village Clubs and Organisations

THE COKER 400 CLUB

The winners of the Summer draw: £100 Mr J M Phillips; £50 Mrs R Waite; £40 Mrs P Gubbins; £30 Lady Leng; £20 Mrs A Davidge; £15 Mrs O Sharman; £10 Mrs K Sturtridge; £10 Mr T Clough.

Any new members will be welcome at the cost of £20 a year by quarterly payments of £5. Enquiries to Mike Weston 862472, Gloria Mead 862364, Mary Ashley 862263, Arthur Rees 862828

EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Thank you to all who attended the Branch Coffee Morning at the Helyar Arms on 31 July. Our thanks to those who did the general organising and to members and villagers who donated cakes, sundries and draw prizes. Sincere thanks also to the management and staff of the Helyar for providing, tea, coffee and scones. We cleared £340 which was a wonderful sum enabling the Branch and RBL as a whole to continue its work in assisting and caring for veterans and dependants of ex and serving personnel. If you are aware of any ex or serving personnel/dependants who need our help or support but are too proud to ask, please let a member of the Committee or branch know. They do not have to be RBL members to benefit.

Remembrance Sunday 8 November. The service will be at St Michael's East Coker commencing at 11.00am. Legion members and youth groups should assemble outside the west door by 10.45am for the short walk to the reserved seats. There will be a short service of commemoration, in the grounds of West Coker Club at 12.30pm. All church collections on Remembrance Sunday are in aid of the Poppy Appeal. If you are a taxpayer, please make use of the Gift Aid envelopes. To those of you unable to attend church, please support our Poppy Appeal collectors, when they call.

Thursday 22 October. The Branch will be represented, at the County Poppy Appeal Launch at Haynes Motor Museum, Sparkford commencing at 12.30pm. Badges are available, allowing free entry to the Museum. Available on first-come-first-served basis. Should you wish to attend, please contact David Holland or Marilyn Smith as soon as possible.

Saturday 31 October. We are intending to visit The National Memorial Arboretum, near Lichfield, Staffs. Cost is likely to be £20. If you would like to join us, please contact Marilyn or David as soon as possible.

Thursday 26 November. the Branch AGM will be held at East Coker Village Hall (Dampier Room) 7.30pm.

Chairman: David Holland 852782 Secretary: Marilyn Smith 863944

EAST COKER FLOWER SHOW & WINE FESTIVAL

Well done to everyone who participated in the local East Coker Flower Show and Wine Festival and a big thank you to everyone who helped and supported the event. We had a high quality of entries and we made roughly £400 which will go to charity.

Maudsley Challenge Cup – Joyce Pryor
Archie Neville Memorial Cup – Mike Bayliss
East Coker Garden Club Cup (Children under 5s) – Adam Buttle
League of Friends Cup - Don White
Pittard Rose Cup – David Carter
Jane Harvey Pot Plant Salver – Roy Thomas
Molly Kettlewell Herb Cup – Christine Mead
Miss E B Drake Challenge Cup (Children 11-15 years) – Hector Coles
Miss Keefe Cup – Christine Mead
Drake Memorial Cup – Edna Mitchell
Eileen Doyle Memorial Cup – Gloria Mead
Christine Mead Cup – Helen Clifton
Society Photographic Trophy – Joyce Pryor
Judges Favourite Photo – David Pryor
Don White Challenge Cup – Sally Anderson
Ralph Eacott Plaque – Roy Thomas
Gloria Mead Cup (Children 6-10 years) – Millie Kearvell
Mrs Newman Cup – Don White

EAST COKER SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

The Club meets in the Village Hall on Tuesdays between 7.15pm and 9.45pm and Fridays 2.30pm to 4.30pm. We would be pleased to see anyone who would like to try bowling or anyone who already bowls and would like to join us. It offers a sport for all ages and also a good social circle. We have our normal club meetings and also play in competitive matches.

A Charity Bowling Tournament is being held on 15 November in aid of 'Wishing for a Well'. 16 teams are entered, playing triples, and coming from places as far apart as Westward Ho and Bristol. Local teams are also competing. Spectators welcome. Tea and Raffle Tickets will be on sale.

You can contact Tony Robins on 864174 or George Dudden on 864222.

EAST COKER W.I.

The last three months posed a bit of a challenge when two of the scheduled speakers had to cancel through ill-health. But when one of the 'stand-ins' had an accident on the day of the meeting, the President's husband, David Pryor, was persuaded to show an audio visual presentation on his passions in photography. Fortunately, he had been preparing for a presentation at the Yeovil Camera Club, so, with a little adaptation, was able to produce a varied and interesting show. On another occasion, Lufton College of Further Education provided three helpers who explained the working of the College which teaches handicapped youngsters. Members were so impressed that a visit to Lufton College is planned for the spring. Our meeting in late September will welcome Rob Curtis, a Blue Badge Guide, talking on 'Smuggling Tales and Trails'. In October the AGM will profit from a visit by Women's Institute Advisor, Shenna Holloway, and in November there will be a Christmas table-decoration demonstration by Sue Mason. Our traditional Christmas meal venue has yet to be decided.

The first whist drive of the season has had to be cancelled and will now be held on Thursday, 15 October. We always welcome visitors and potential members to our meetings on the last Thursday of the month at the East Coker Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Joyce Pryor (862816)

Diary dates

Thursday 15 October	Whist Drive	East Coker Village Hall 7.30p
Thursday 22 October	W.I. Meeting AGM	East Coker Village Hall 7.30pm
Friday 13 November	W.I. Group Revue	East Coker Village Hall 7.00pm
Saturday 14 November	W.I. Group Revue	East Coker Village Hall 7.00pm
Thursday 19 November	Whist Drive	East Coker Village Hall 7.30pm
Thursday 26 November	W.I. Christmas Decoration demo	East Coker Village Hall 7.30pm



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.

BADMINTON

Both the mixed badminton group on Monday evenings from 8.00pm and the ladies' group on Thursday afternoons from 2.15pm would welcome new players. Neither group is looking for competition players but for those who would like to pursue this activity and seek valuable exercise in this way. For further information please ring Joyce Pryor 862816.

EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

The Circle's new programme started last month with a very humorous evening presented by former diplomat, David Hawkes, who spoke on his experiences in the service. The Circle has quite an exciting programme of speakers ahead continuing on 14 October with a tasting of wine and food, illustrating what wine complements what food, given by Eric Beckley. The intriguing title of November's talk 'Shakespeare Will's Women – A Nun, a Tart and a Dark Lady' by David Duff suggests another fun evening. Bringing the first quarter to a close will be the traditional commercial wine tasting at December's meeting when Ravensdale Wines will present a tasting of six different Australian vintages. At this meeting there will also be a bread-making competition with categories covering white and brown home-made loaves and a class for machine-assisted bread.

The annual theme party at the East Coker Village Hall on Saturday, 9 January will be World War II and Glen Miller. Tickets will be on sale from December from the Treasurer on 863555.

Dedicated winemakers and those interested in becoming so, as members of the Circle, can also avail themselves of the opportunity to share experiences and skills with like-minded members at the additional Wine Forum held quarterly. On these occasions there will also be tastings of commercial wines from various countries, the first being in October. Date and venue to be arranged.

The Circle meets on the first Wednesday in the month unless otherwise advised. New members and guests welcome. Further information from the Secretary on 862816.

EAST COKER ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

Many thanks to all of you who supported our Cream Teas again this year. We delivered nearly 600 individual boxes in and around Yeovil and made just under £2,500 profit. This event keeps on growing every year and is enjoyed by all who take part.

Our next fundraising event is a 'Christmas Shopping Evening' at the East Coker Village Hall on Wednesday 25 November from 7.00pm to 10.00pm. We shall have many stalls selling a large selection of good quality gifts to suit all age-groups and pockets. Tickets are £4 if bought in advance or £5 on the door to include a festive glass of wine and a mince pie.

Please contact Jane Donnelly on 478409, Angie Mead on 862972 or Barb Raison on 862553 for tickets or more information.

Copperfields Services

Property Maintenance

Pete Clarke

01935 432215

07756 839225

Extensions

Conversions

Painting & Decorating

Garden Landscaping

No job too small

Reliable Local Family Business

TIME TO SHARE

In July, members were entertained by Mickey Fitzpatrick, reading some of her highly amusing poems. Later in the month, twins, Nina Maidment and Zoe Moulding related anecdotes from their book 'Rhymes and Times' an account of Edwardian life as experienced by their parents.

The 34th birthday party was held in Lois Crisp's beautiful natural garden, full of charming features to surprise the visitors, and also in perfect weather. This event is becoming the highlight of the year.

Official matters were dealt with speedily at the AGM in August, to enable members to purchase items from the 'new' Bring & Buy sale which followed the meeting.

More good weather enhanced the Club's whole day outing to Sidmouth and the garden centre at Ottery St Mary. Travel costs for this particular trip were funded by bequests from the late President, Flora Duley and long term member Dorothy May.

At our last meeting, Gerald Fisher gave a most interesting and informative talk on Bees and Bee-keeping, stressing a) the need to encourage bees into our gardens to correct their drastic reduction in numbers in recent years and b) how dependent humans are on these creatures so essential to our food chain. A superb visual display on the big screen accompanied his talk which stimulated further interest. A good number of members left the village hall that afternoon with a jar of Walker's homemade honey.

Future Dates

5 October	Songs, Stories and Poems	19 October	Craft Competition
2 November	Tea Dance	16 November	Christmas Bazaar
30 November	Carol Service at St Michael's	14 December	Christmas Party

EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

The Gardening Club members, guests and visitors benefited from another three months of interesting talks and outings. At the end of June, members and visitors enjoyed an evening's guided tour of Wells Palace Gardens, followed by a buffet supper. In July Chris Cornell gave a talk on wild flowers and the origins of some of our 'garden' plants. Freda Brown came in August, with tips for hands on gardening. In September we had an excellent talk on the history of the gardens at Hestercombe House, followed by a day trip to the gardens a week later.

The programme for the three months is as follows

8 October	'The Healing Garden'	Speakers G and H Haig
12 November	AGM to be held at the 'Quicksilver Mail', Hendford Hill, Yeovil	
10 December	'Wreath & Festive Decorations'	Chris Smith of Pennard Plants

Monthly meetings are held in the East Coker Village Hall on the second Thursday of the month, commencing at 7.30pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

For further information, please contact Catherine Denney, Honorary Secretary (862294), or Stan Shayler, Honorary Treasurer (420291).

EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

Forthcoming events

Tuesday 6 October – Katrina Porteous

Tuesday 27 October – 2009 Poetry Competition – reading of all the entries – the subject was 'Space'

Tuesday 8 December – Open Meeting. Any poems can be read or just come and listen.

The meetings are held at The Helyar Arms 7.30pm

Contact details – David Cloke 862623 or our website www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk

EAST COKER PLAYERS

At the recent 'special' meeting held on 4 September, four new people came and a promise of more who could not attend that evening. With these people in mind we decided to try to produce a pantomime on 19/20 February 2010, but only if these extra people come to the meeting on 5 October in the Dampier Room. If not the Players will definitely close.

All enquiries to Nora White 477897

Young People

EAST COKER SCHOOL PTFA

Christmas Craft & Pamper Evening – Friday 13 November 2009, 7.00pm until 9:30pm

A variety of stalls and pre-booked pamper sessions.

Fashion Show – 27 November 2009

Both these events will be held at East Coker School.

EAST COKER SCHOOL

School Travel – Parents are now officially allowed to park in the East Coker Village Hall car-park, but is at the driver's own risk. This is to ease roadside parking. All children are to be issued with reflective waistcoats to increase their visibility.

New Staff Members – We are pleased to welcome Mrs Carla Bailey as class teacher with Year 5,6 and Mrs Emma Burton as school finance officer.

Play Day – 22 October, a whole day's play activities which last year were very successful and great fun.

Christmas Show – Key Stage 1 on 7/8 December

Carol Service – Friday 18 December, St Michael's Church, 2.00pm

J. H. Norman & Sons

103 West Coker Road

Yeovil, Somerset

BA20 2JF

01935 476527

07734 867672

Motor Engineers

MOT Testing

Service & Repairs

Car Sales

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

The Group has restarted after the summer holidays with a hectic few weeks. We held a presentation evening on Friday 11 September for Simon Glover's Queen's Scout Award which he received from Neil Slade the Somerset County Commissioner.

The following weekend the Scouts camped at Yetminster and did skills sessions on axe & saw, campsite layout and fire. We will be investing 14 new Beavers at the end of the month and now have strong sections in all age groups. However, we are still looking for additional leaders so if anyone is interested please call on 474648.

Newspaper Collections: Sat 31 October Sat 28 November Sat 2 January 2010

Please bring all your old newspapers to Honeysuckle Cottage (outside the School) by 10.30am. This is an excellent way of supporting us and raises funds for equipment.

Thank you for your support.

EAST COKER TEA-ROOM

It is nice to welcome regular and new customers back after our summer break. We are open every day from 10.00am – 3.00pm but close at 12:30pm on a Friday afternoon to enable Students to enjoy enrichment activities and Staff to undertake training and attend meetings.

Our new telephone number is 863351.

Please see notices of our holiday closing times in the Tea Rooms. Thank you.

Carolyn Varley
Head of Function Mencap
Lufton College of Further Education
01935 403120

The Churches

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH CLOSWORDH

Sunday 18 October, Archdeacon Nicola Sullivan will be sharing the service with us. It will be a very special time as I cannot recall the Archdeacon taking part in a service there previously and certainly not at a Family Service. For further details, please contact me. Monica 862834

Sunday 8 November – 6.30pm Remembrance Service and Evensong

Sunday 15 November – 10.00am Family Service

Christmas at Closwordh

As usual the Carol Service will be on Sunday 13 December at 6.30pm. It was lovely having so many people at the 'Songs of Praise' in August; it would be good if people from East Coker could join us at Closwordh.

On 24 December at 4.00pm, we shall be having our special Christmas Eve Nativity Presentation. At the time of writing it is unconfirmed, but we may be having a real live baby Jesus. The service last about 30 minutes and is suitable for all ages.

Please can children come either as Shepherds, Kings or Angels, or children of many lands, I hope that gives parents lots of scope, and if all else fails – footballers! If we have a real baby obviously his/her mother and father will be Mary and Joseph.

Please phone me for more details. Monica 862834

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Wednesday 7 October – Harvest Supper, East Coker Village Hall, 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Sunday 18 October 6.00pm – One World Week commences

Sunday 25 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 charity

Saturday 31 October 6.30pm – All Saints' Bonfire at the Vicarage. £3 entry fee

Sunday 8 November 10.50am – Service of Remembrance 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

21 November – Bath & Wells Cathedral, closing act of worship in celebration of 1100years

29 November – Advent Sunday

6 December – Christingle Service, 10.00am

Friday 18 December – East Coker School Carol Service

Sunday 20 December – Carol Service 6.00pm. All are very welcome to be there

Monday 21 December – Carol singing around the village, starting at 7.00pm

Christmas Eve – 11.00pm Midnight Mass & Carols

Christmas Day – 8.00am Holy Communion. 10.00am Family Service

Sunday 27 December – 8.00am Holy Communion. 10.00am Family Service. 6.00pm Evensong

Sunday 3 January 2010 – Epiphany 10.00am Family Service

Service for those we have loved but no longer see

This year the service is on 1 November at 6.00pm. The preacher will be Bishop Peter Price. It will be a very special service.

I will be writing to those who have been bereaved during the last year to ask them both to the service and if they would like their loved ones' name read out. We are happy to include any other names of loved ones regardless of where they lived or died. As the list is long we ask for only one Christian name and surname. Please let me have their names by 27 October so that I can co-ordinate the lists. Monica 862834

One World Week – make the World a fairer place for everyone

Sunday 25 October – 'Cool' Sunday and a Curry Lunch – Hot and Cold at St Michael's for two good causes. No heating in the church – wrap up warmly for all services and save £50+ for a Tearfund Global warming disaster project.

Curry Lunch at The Vicarage (vegetarian, mild chicken, beef and a pudding), 12.30pm.

A donation of £5+ per person is recommended to support the United World College Scholarship Fund to sponsor a 6th Form Student from a third-world country. John Burgess will speak briefly on the project. **ALL WELCOME.**

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SUTTON BINGHAM

Silent Auction

On Friday 16 October in the East Coker Village Hall, in aid of the Roof Fund. The roof is in very urgent need of repair. The Auction will commence at 7.00pm and end at approximately 8.30pm.

We are looking for quality items, or promises, to auction. Please contact the Carol Blackmore 862192 or Catherine Denney 862294 if you feel you can contribute to this event.

We have already been promised a 'Holiday in Spain for Two'; 'One Month's Wellbeing Programme' at the Nuffield Health, Yeovil; 'Mushroom Compost'; 'A Cut & Blow-dry'; plus other exciting items. Light refreshments will be available during the evening. This will be a 'fun' evening for a very worthy cause. All welcome.

Services

Sunday 4 October 9.00am Sunday 18 October 11.30am

Sunday 1 November 9.00am 15 November 11.30am

Sunday 6 December 9.00am

Carol Service – Tuesday 15 December 6.30pm

Christmas Day – 11.30am

2010 – Sunday 3 January 9.00am Sunday 17 January 11.30am

Churchwardens Mrs Carol Blackmore 862192 Mrs Heather Snook 474138

EAST COKER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, BURTON LANE

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 In the autumn we shall be holding a Bible Discussion group in the Chapel on alternate Thursday evenings. We will be looking at the Jeff Lucas DVD 'Elijah – Prophet at a loss'. 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.

Carol Service. We shall be holding our Carol Service on Sunday 20 December at 4.00pm followed by tea. 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.

Book Club In the next couple of weeks Kevin will be contacting those who have shown an interest in the proposed new Book Club to see if we can get together to discuss how we each envision it running. If there are sufficient numbers interested we may well run two groups, one meeting during the day and the other in the evening to suit people's needs. The genre of books to be read is entirely up to those who make up the group(s). If you are interested please give Kevin a call on one of the numbers above.

Village News

GOOSE SLADE FARM SHOP

The Dunning family would like to thank everyone who came along and helped to make the 'Goosey Fair' such a huge success.

The winner of 'guess the weight of the goose' was Liz Maskew, guessing closest with 4.300Kg to the actual weight of 4.335Kg. Monica Whipp was delighted to win the chocolate hamper and Jane Donnelly had the closest guess with 345 to win the pot of sweets!

We were very pleased to raise £472.82 for St Margaret's Hospice, Yeovil.

We hope everyone who came had an enjoyable time.

Don't forget to order your Christmas goose (the goose samples certainly were popular!) We can supply Christmas hams, local oven ready chicken, duck and turkey, plus our home-reared beef, lamb and pork joints, also Christmas hampers and gift ideas.

Open 10.00am – 6.00pm, Tuesday to Saturday, tel 863735. We look forward to serving you.

Many thanks again, from all the Dunning's at Goose Slade Farm.

EAST COKER MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

We would like to say thank you to everyone who supports the charity coffee mornings each month at The Helyar Arms, both the villagers and the charity organisers alike.

We would also like to say a big thank you to The Helyar Arms for providing the venue, the coffee and, best of all, the scones! Thank you also to everybody who has contributed cakes.

Coffee morning dates Friday 30 October – Christian Aid
 Friday 27 November – Children in Need

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313 and Penny Marpole 863055

WESTLAKE SURGERY FLU IMMUNISATION CLINICS

This year, the flu clinics are being held on Tuesday 13 October and Wednesday 21 October 2009. They will both be held at West Coker Club from 2.00pm – 4.00pm.

There is no need to make an appointment, just turn up. The sessions are open to patients registered at Westlake Surgery with Dr Cox, Dr Smith or Dr Cotton.

These clinics will **ONLY** be for patients who are at risk through chronic disease, eg diabetes, COPD, stroke, heart disease etc (and their carers) and all patients who are over 65. If at the end of our flu vaccination campaign there is spare vaccine, it will then be made available to other patients.

Refreshments will be available during the clinics.

As in previous years, the surgery will be closed for part of one morning each month for staff training. On these mornings there are none of the usual surgeries but a locum doctor is available to see anyone needing an appointment. The surgery is open from 8.30am – 11.00am as usual and then closes completely until 1.30pm.

If a medical emergency occurs during that time then patients can either dial 999 or the surgery can be contacted on 07875750811. The surgery opens again as usual from 1.30pm.

The dates of the training days in 2009 are

Friday 23 October Friday 27 November

EAST COKER VILLAGE STORE

This year's Christmas Display (yes, it is that time already) will be held on Wednesday 4 November through to Friday 6 November. We have added some new items this year, as well as the old favourites, so do please come along. There will be plenty of nice gift ideas and things to treat yourself with this Christmas. We do already have a selection of Christmas cards and wrapping paper in store and of course do not forget the ever popular East Coker Christmas cards which will be on sale shortly.

We are continuing to make improvements to the store and believe it is a valuable asset to East Coker. The more people who use it the better we can make it. We stock most essentials and some items you wouldn't dream we would have. Although we are no longer a post office we still sell books of stamps and you can top up your mobile phone here.

Take a trip to East Coker Village Store. See the Christmas Display and much, much more!

Paul, Vicky, Emmalia and Lillia Moorhouse.

ROTARY AND INNER WHEEL COFFEE MORNING.

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Rotary and Inner Wheel Coffee Morning at our house on 8 August. We raised £430 to be split between the charities of Polio Plus and Children of Sumatra.

Barrie and Anne Hartley

CHRISTMAS BINGO

Christmas Bingo at East Coker Village Hall on 5 December in aid of St Margaret's Hospice (Yeovil). Doors open 6.45pm, eyes down 7.30pm. Prizes include: wine, hampers, and Children's prizes. Coffee and mince pies at half-time. For more details, contact Nora White 477897.

BONFIRES

Autumn is traditionally the time of the year for bonfires. Before lighting one, **please do remember** to make sure there is no washing on your neighbour's line and that the wind is blowing away from the houses. It is the polite thing to do.

STANCHESTER SPORTS CENTRE

Stanchester Sports Centre has a variety of activities to keep everyone fit & healthy over the autumn months.

Why not try out our fitness suite, with qualified staff and Fitlinxx to keep you on track and cardio theatre to keep you entertained.

If you're not a gym person come along and join in with our pay-on-the-day aerobics, circuits & boxercise classes or sign up for a Pilates, badminton, 50+ keep fit or fencing course. Or just come along and play badminton, squash, tennis or 5-a-side football.

We have many clubs that book our facilities they are always looking for new members. The After Eight Badminton club on a Monday, Taekwondo & Karate Mondays & Thursdays; Volleyball Wednesdays and Sparring on a Saturday morning, contact us for more details.

We still have spaces on our after school youth trampolining, badminton, fencing, courses. If that isn't enough we also have just launched a youth membership (12yrs+) which includes the fitness room, classes and racket sports for just £15 per month.

During the Half Term Holiday at the end of October we run an OFSTED register play scheme for 5 - 14yrs, plus our ever popular sporting activities fencing, trampolining, dodge ball, football multi-sports. This year we have added some off-site activities to include; Biking courses, a visit to the Velodrome in Newport. For the older kids (8-14 yrs), an outdoor adventure day i.e. climbing wall, raft building etc at Hestercombe House in Taunton. Transport provided all for just £15 pp (Tuesday 27 October – limited spaces)!! Book early to avoid disappointment.

And don't forget we can also organise and run your child's birthday party to save you the stress and mess!

Looking for somewhere to train or play football / netball? Then hire our outdoor floodlit multi-courts, block-booking or casual rates available.

Contact the Sports Centre for details on 825261 email stanchestersportscentre@somerset.gov.uk

THE BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

by kind permission

The Helyar Arms

Friday 30 October – 10.00am

CHRISTIAN AID

which, with others, serves us and all in care of God's children and his world

The Annual Envelope Collectors will be our guests

SPECIAL – there will be a table to receive your gifts of any type of OLD JEWELLERY which will be valued professionally and later sold at valuation price – all proceeds to Christian Aid will be added to our Coffee Morning total

WEA – EAST COKER BRANCH – AUTUMN 2009

'Yeovil & Sherborne' – A Tale of Two Towns – Tutor Katherine Barker

Tuesday 29 September – Tuesday 3 November 2009, East Coker Village Hall, 2.30pm – 4.00pm. Fee £28

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

SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY

The mobile library visiting times and dates for the stops in 2009 are:

5 November	26 November	17 December	
East Coker			
The Helyar Arms	11.45am – 12 noon	North Coker Bus Shelter	12.05pm – 12.25pm
Meadow View	12.30pm – 12.50pm	Maudslay Fields	12.55pm – 13.15pm
Sutton Bingham	Bower Farm	13.25pm – 13.45pm	

THE HELYAR ARMS

Every Wednesday 'Pie Day' – Homemade Pies £6.95. Every Monday 'Steak Night – 2 steaks £20.

Christmas Bookings now being taken and we are open Christmas Day for lunch.

Quiz Night

To be held on the last Sunday of each month. Four persons per team at £5 per team. Good fun for everyone!

EAST COKER OIL PURCHASE SCHEME

The purpose of the scheme is to co-ordinate our orders for oil so that the supplier can deliver them in one trip to the village. This means his costs are reduced and we pay a lower price. It has proved successful, so I propose to co-ordinate four orders per year on a quarterly basis in January, April, July and October. This coincides with the publication of the East Coker Society Newsletter and I have been advised that July is the time for the best price. One participant this July saved about £27 including VAT or 8.7% on the price he had been quoted for an order of 900 litres.

For myself I intend to fill my tank in July and top it up as required in January. If you have already participated and found it worthwhile, encourage your friends and neighbours to join in. The more we can order the better the price.

The scheme operates as follows:

- You let me know how much oil you require, either as an absolute number of litres or as a minimum amount but fill the tank. Please note that officialdom decrees a minimum order quantity of 500 litres.
- I also need any special instructions like access requirements. I specify a standard four-wheeled tanker (not a mini) anyway because of the narrow lanes and tight corners in the village.
- I collate the requirements and get the best price and a delivery date for so many thousand litres in so many drops.
- I give the supplier a list of names, addresses, phone numbers, quantities and any special instructions.
- I let everyone know the price and date. The price is the same for everyone irrespective of quantity.
- The supplier delivers the oil and invoices everyone individually.
- You pay the supplier directly.

Any questions, contact me, preferably by email (paulewards@waitrose.com) or 864413. Email makes it much easier to circulate information and I do not divulge email addresses. Let me know your requirements for October by Wednesday 21 October.

SAD NEWS

Jennifer Manning, neé Snow (27/09/83), formerly of 30 Broadacres, East Coker Primary School, Westfield School, Mill Fellowship, East Coker Brownies, West Coker Rainbows and Guides, passed away on 22 July 2009. She battled with Leukaemia from February 2008 whilst living in Tynmouth and then Carlisle, receiving her treatment from Newcastle Hospital. Her funeral was on 3 August.

A group global open facebook site 'jennifer elizabeth manning' is available for those to visit and join as they wish.

Elizabeth & Philip Snow

NOTES FROM THE OBSERVATORY

Autumnal Equinox 22 September 2009

It has not been a good summer. Apart from a short warm spell in early July and a sunny start to September the season was disappointing. July was a wet month with 95.5mm (3.76ins) of rain falling. So far this year, rainfall has been 524.5mm (20.65ins). A dry spell with no measurable rainfall occurred from 5 September to 22 September. The wettest day was on 4 August with rain all day making the day a gloomy one with 28.96mm rain (1.14ins). The warmest day this summer was 2 July with a maximum shade temperature of 22.7C (74.7 F).

Despite the poor summer there has been a recovery in butterfly species. In the village, there were early sightings of Common Blues in some profusion, as well as the more common Gatekeepers and Meadow Browns. Small Coppers and Peacocks appeared with a few Marbled Whites. A late flying Brimstone was seen in August, evidently from a second brood while a beautiful Silver Washed Fritillary displayed for me in late June. Speckled Woods flew throughout the summer, easily recognized at a distance by their whirling nuptial flight. A Large Skipper, resembling a moth in resting position also appeared. Moths were less evident but a report of many Magpie moths and a Humming Bird Hawk moth on valerian flowers reached me.

No strange birds were sighted but a correspondent reported a flock of many swallows and house martins on 2 July. Flying much higher over the flock was a solitary swift. There has been a recovery in wren numbers. A green woodpecker searched for ants on my lawn in August and took no notice of a grey squirrel nearby. Woodpigeons and blackbirds began to feast on ripening elderberries on 17 August. Wood pigeons are nervous birds that flap away noisily when humans appear but one is getting used to me and just hops to a safe distance nearby when it spots me.

Conditions for fungi this summer brought forth a splendid mixed crop on many village lawns. Most were the pink *Rusula Lepita* but many *Boletus* sp. also appeared.

A family of hedgehogs including a very small baby was a frequent visitation to a neighbour late at night.

Jupiter is now low in the S.W sky and will be out of sight by mid October. However, the great winter constellation Orion with its distinctive stars Betelgeuse and Rigel will soon appear in the southern night sky.

Francis Cloke. 862496

CCM ELECTRICS LTD
Electrical Contractor
Domestic, Commercial and Industrial

- All Types of Work Considered
- 24 Hour Call Out • All Areas Covered
- Building Regulations Part P Compliant
- Fully Qualified and Insured
- Testing & Inspection • No Job Too Small
- Free Estimates
- Experience in Eco Friendly Systems
- Underfloor Heating

 Portable Appliance Testing from £1.39 per item

All Works Guaranteed - Competitive Rates

For a **FREE Estimate** Contact:
Crispian Macpherson
Freephone: 0800 1182521
Mobile: 07976 855186
Fax: 01935 864234

Mayfair Cottage, East Coker, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 9LQ

EAST COKER ACTION GROUP – PINCUSHION CORNER

Notice to all Members – The AGM will be held at Darvole Farm at 6.30pm on Monday, 19 October, 2009. Contact no: 01935 4741238. H Snook.

EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

South Somerset District Council have issued guidelines for **paying fuel bills, free loft and cavity insulation** and associated issues. If you are over 70, you can get cavity insulation free and loft insulation free as long as there is less than 6cm (2.5 inches) of insulation in the loft already. If you are over 60 you should qualify for a Winter Fuel payment. Useful phone numbers are listed:

The Benefits Enquiry Line –	0800 882200
SSDC's Welfare Benefits Advisor	01935 462006
Heating Grants (Warm Front)	0800 316 2814/6011
Grants towards Fuel Bills -	01733 421021
Home Aid Partnership -	01458 257484
Winter Fuel Payment Helpline -	08459 151515

There is also an initiative from Central Government which has enabled SSDC to offer grants of up to £1000 to households of any income level in South Somerset, to help them install **Solar Panels** that heat water. This may also include interest free loans.

Climate Energy Advisors - 0800 0966356

An application has been submitted for the status of **Turner's Barn Lane Recreation Field** to be classed as a Village Green in order to safeguard it for leisure activities in perpetuity. This field was partly in East Coker Parish, but was moved into Yeovil Parish some years ago. Neighbours are anxious to keep it as an open space for future generations to enjoy.

Following on from the **Traffic Meeting** at the East Coker School on Thursday, 2 July, **PCSO Matthew Tailby** reported that coning the area had worked in the short term and that permission has now been granted, and insurance cover agreed, for parents to park in the East Coker Village Hall Car Park. Thanks to District Councillor, Cathy Bakewell who has organized a grant for 'hi-vis' jackets to be supplied to every child in East Coker School. The headmaster, Mr Powell, is organizing training for a 'walking bus' from the car park. The Parish Council is grateful to The East Coker Village Hall Committee, PSCO Tailby and Mr Powell for their continued help. **It is now up to parents to respect this new parking and walking initiative and MAKE IT WORK!**

The setting up of a **Youth Council** does not appear to have any support from the youngsters in the village, so it is unlikely to go ahead. If, in the future, there is a need, the Parish Council will be happy to support it. Thank you to Simon Dicker for his support.

The present stage of improvements to the **Pavilion** have finally reached their conclusion! The committee room and changing facilities are now decorated and operational, with full kitchen facilities available, separate from those used by the Play Group and Pre-School.

The whole Pavilion, with a one or two-room option, is available for small parties, or meetings. Details and hire charges will be posted on the Pavilion notice board, or are available from the Parish Clerk.

Football teams are already using all the pitches and facilities, and hopefully, appreciating them. Thank you to everyone who has borne with us during the building and decoration.

Finances have not allowed us to completely finish everything in this financial year, including replacement furniture, but please make sure that anyone using the Pavilion respects all the property, keeping it clean and tidy for the next ones to use it. Any vandalism or damage must be reported. Any repairs to damage at this stage will only delay finances for completion. This especially applies to the kitchen, which must be kept clean and equipment supplied must be respected at all times. There will be an Official Opening of the new facilities in the near future, so please come along and support this when it is advertised.

Free Rights of Ways Maps for the Parish of East Coker are available from the The Stores, The Helyar Arms and the Church or any Parish Councillor. If you are new to the village, please make sure you have one before you set off for a walk. All rights of ways are clearly marked with way-markers – yellow for footpaths and blue for bridleways. Please respect all the land that you cross and stay on designated routes.

Keep your dogs under close control and preferably on a lead and remove your dog-dirt, put it in a bag and place in one of the special dog waste bins around the village.

Do not allow your dogs to worry sheep or cattle at any time, and be sensible when walking through farm stock – take a walking stick with you in case you have to take evasive action. If your dog does disturb or spook cattle be prepared to find another route – there are plenty of footpaths in the village that do not cross stocked fields. Above all, **PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW DOGS TO FOUL THE SPORTS' PITCHES** in the Pavilion area – pitches must be kept safe and clean for players to use.

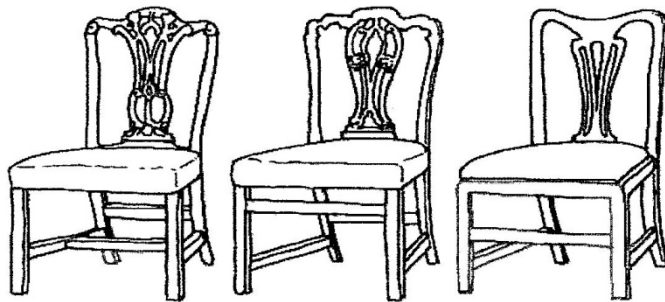
VILLAGE DIARY October 2009 - January 2010

Mon 5 Oct	Time to Share – Songs, stories & poems	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Tues 6 Oct	Poetry Group – Katrina Porteous	The Helyar Arms	7.30pm
Wed 7 Oct	Harvest Supper	East Coker Hall	7.00pm for 7.30pm
Thurs 8 Oct	Gardening Club – The Healing Garden	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Wed 14 Oct	East Coker Wine Circle – Tasting	East Coker Hall	8.00pm
Thurs 15 Oct	W I – Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 16 Oct	Silent Auction – All Saints, Sutton Bingham	East Coker Hall	7.00pm
Mon 19 Oct	ECAG – Pincushion Corner	Darvole Farm	6.30pm
Mon 19 Oct	Time to Share – Craft Competition	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Thurs 22 Oct	RBL – Poppy Launch	Haynes Museum	12.30pm
Thurs 22 Oct	W I – Annual General Meeting	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sun 25 Oct	Curry Lunch	The Vicarage	12.30pm
Sun 25 Oct	British Summer Time Ends	Clocks go back	1 hour
Tues 27 Oct	Poetry Group – Competition Results	The Helyar Arms	7.30pm
Fri 30 Oct	Coffee Morning – Christian Aid	The Helyar Arms	10.00am – 12 noon
Sat 31 Oct	All Saints' Bonfire	The Vicarage	6.30pm
Sat 31 Oct	Scouts Newspaper Collection	Near the School	9.00am – 10.30am
Sat 31 Oct	RBL – Visit to National Memorial Arboretum		
Mon 2 Nov	Time to Share – Tea Dance	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Wed 4 Nov	East Coker Wine Circle – Fun Evening	East Coker Hall	8.00pm
Thurs 5 Nov	Library		
Thurs 12 Nov	Gardening Club – AGM	Quicksilver Mail	7.30pm
Fri 13 Nov	Craft & Pamper Evening – East Coker School PTFA	East Coker School	7.00pm – 9.30pm
Fri 13 Nov	W I – Group Review	East Coker Hall	7.00pm
Sat 14 Nov	W I – Group Review	East Coker Hall	7.00pm
Sun 15 Nov	Charity Bowling Competition	East Coker Hall	
Mon 16 Nov	Time to Share – Christmas Bazaar	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Thurs 19 Nov	W I – Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Wed 25 Nov	Christmas Shopping Evening	East Coker Hall	7.00pm – 10.00pm
Thurs 26 Nov	Royal British Legion – AGM	Dampier Room	7.30pm
Thurs 26 Nov	W I – Christmas Demonstration	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Thurs 26 Nov	Library		
Fri 27 Nov	East Coker PTFA – Fashion Show	East Coker School	
Fri 27 Nov	Coffee Morning – Children in Need	The Helyar Arms	10.00am – 12 noon
Sat 28 Nov	Scouts Newspaper Collection	Near the School	9.00am – 10.30am
Mon 30 Nov	Time to Share – Carols at St Michael's		
Wed 2 Dec	East Coker Wine Circle – Tasting	East Coker Hall	8.00pm
Sat 5 Dec	Christmas Bingo - St Margaret's Hospice	East Coker Hall	6.45pm
Sun 6 Dec	Christingle – St Michael's	East Coker	10.00am
Tues 8 Dec	Poetry Group – Open Meeting	The Helyar Arms	7.30pm
Thurs 10 Dec	Gardening Club – Wreaths & Decorations	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sun 13 Dec	Carol Service – All Saints' Church	Closworth	6.30pm
Mon 14 Dec	Time to Share – Christmas Party	East Coker Hall	2.30pm
Tues 15 Dec	Carol Service – All Saints' Church	Sutton Bingham	6.30pm
Thurs 17 Dec	Library		
Sun 20 Dec	Carol Service - St Michael's Church	East Coker	6.00pm
Tues 22 Dec	Copy required for January's Newsletter		
2010			
Sat 2 Jan	Scouts Newspaper Collection	Near the School	9.00am – 10.30am
Sat 9 Jan	East Coker Wine Circle – Theme Party	East Coker Hall	

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in January 2010. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or e-mail L.Lindsay@eastcoker.com or to The Store, East Coker by **Tuesday 22 December 2009**.

KEN MARSH u p h o l s t e r y



**ANTIQUE & MODERN FURNITURE
RE-UPHOLSTERED BY SKILLED CRAFTSMEN**

REPAIRS & RE-POLISHING

ALL KINDS OF SOFT FURNISHINGS MADE

Extensive choice of quality fabrics available

Free estimates & home appointments

Items collected & delivered in our own van

**Telephone EAST COKER 01935 862907
or mobile 07790 759162**