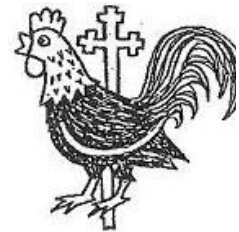


East Coker Society Newsletter



OCTOBER 2011

Free Issue No 144

Chair: John Sugg	863435	
Newsletter Editor: Lesley Lindsay	862868	l.lindsay@eastcoker.com
Secretary: Sarah Owen	862218	
Treasurer: Keith Helliar	863700	

East Coker Society News

200+ EMAILS, BUT MORE PLEASE!

We have roughly 800 households in the village, yet only 210 have taken up the e-mail option. In asking for villagers' co-operation it is stressed that:

- Individuals' e-mail addresses are secure and will not be disclosed to any other party.
- All villagers who wish to continue to receive hard copies of the Newsletter can continue to enjoy this option.
- 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.

We 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 arise through illness and holidays etc.

VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY 2011 – PLEASE USE IT!

The 2011 Diary is now at The Stores, East Coker, and can be found in the shop – please ask. **It is vital that village organisations put their forthcoming events in the Diary to avoid the dates clashing.** Thank you.

Village Clubs and Organisations

ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE WINTER FAYRE

Saturday 19 November 2011, 2.00pm – 4.00pm at the East Coker Hall

Book early! Tables for the Winter Fayre are available. The price is £2 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 6 November at the latest, made payable to, **Carol Blackmore**, Pippins, Higher Burton, East Coker tel. 862192. This will make certain your stall is reserved.



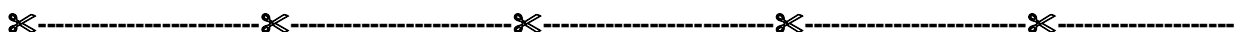
WINTER FAYRE SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2011 – EAST COKER HALL – 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Name of Organisation.....

Type of Stall.....

Contact Name and Telephone Number.....

Size of table at £2 per foot..... I enclose £.....Signed.....



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT – THE FUTURE OF EAST COKER OPEN MEETING

This meeting is to discuss the Council's Core Strategy and the Proposed Urban Extension to the South of Yeovil into East Coker Parish.

East Coker Hall, Wednesday 26 October at 7.30pm. Please do your best to come along to this opportunity to have your say.

TIME TO SHARE

We would like to invite you to our Carol Service at St. Michael's Church on Monday 28 November at 2.30pm.

Club Secretaries – please could you mention this at your next meeting, and let me know how many of your members are likely to come along?

You are all very welcome, but we do need to have an idea of numbers for the refreshments to be served after the Service.

Alison Charles is standing down at the AGM – we will miss her leadership, but she will still be a member. Thank you Alison, for all your hard work and dedication over the last many years! You are a hard act to follow, but I will do my best with the help of all the members. With love,

Sandra Snelling 862162

TIME TO SHARE VOLUNTEER DRIVERS REQUIRED

Volunteer reserve drivers and volunteer permanent drivers, with four door cars, are needed by the Time To Share Club, for ferrying people around.

The permanent driver would need to be available two Monday afternoons each month between 2.00pm and 5.00pm to pick up and collect. Reserve drivers are called upon if a permanent driver is sick or on holiday.

If anyone is interested in helping out, please contact Barbara Cloke 862623, for further details.

EAST COKER VILLAGE FETE SATURDAY 2 JULY 2011

Once again this year the weather couldn't have been much better, warm and dry but not sunny enough to entice people off to the beach! Despite clashing with Hardington Street Fayre, we had a very good turnout and we do thank you for your support for this village event. It certainly wouldn't be the same without you! Charles Hatton kindly opened the Fete and gave us all a word of encouragement, and he and Alison introduced themselves to many of their new parishioners during the course of the afternoon.

This year, we had several attractions taking place in the field: Mr Pals Canine Academy led the way and were very well supported by the Jug Band, Tae Kwon Do demonstrations as well as Canine Partners Training Assistance Dogs, the Salvation Army Band and, of course, the Country Dancers from East Coker Primary School (thank you once again Mrs Frosdick and Miss Crabb).

From East Coker Christian Fellowship's point of view, we do not organise the fete with a view to making money but we are happy to see various organisations make some money for their own ventures. This year we have heard from the following groups with details of their 'profits' as follows;

St Michael's: In excess of £600 divided between the Church and the Vicarage Fund

Action Medical Research: £338 (Thank you Jane, Barb and team for working so tirelessly in producing Cream Teas and cakes)

Sam Barnes 'Protect our Puffins' raised £33.34 (Well done Sam!)

East Coker Players raised £23 and gained one new member.

British Legion took some £50 or so and had a couple of enquiries about membership. Many of the groups attend primarily to support the Village Fete rather than seeking to raise money and we really do appreciate their support. For instance, the Wine Circle were giving away samples, so it will have cost them to attend. The Classic Cars were a great success and many thanks to Derek for organising that. Steve Roles again supported us with Thomas the Tank Engine, and all sums raised were given to ECCF.

This year we charged an Entrance Fee of £1 for adults (free for under 18s) and this, combined with pitch fees, sums raised by the Pimms Bar, Thomas the Tank Engine, Scarecrow entry fees and the Children's marquee (together with some 'matched funding' from Barclays Bank of £127.45p) meant that we had a total income for the day of some £1,077.27. Out of this we had expenses totalling £507.90 comprising East Coker Hall and Marquee Hire, Megaphone, Organ Grinder, Children's and scarecrow prizes, printing costs and general expenses. This left a profit of £569.37. Of this sum, £357 (being the money raised from the Children's marquee and the 'matched funding') was donated to Project Atlas leaving a balance of £212.30p. This balance was donated as follows:

Mr Pals Canine Academy:	£50	Canine Partners:	£50
St. John's Ambulance:	£30	Crewkerne Lions:	£30
The Salvation Army:	£52.30		
Total:	£212.30		

The commercial stalls also appeared to do well but there is not enough room to make mention of all of these or everyone who helped with the planning and preparation. However, one thing I must make particular mention of is the Scarecrow Competition. The entries were brilliant and we are hoping to expand this next year by giving you somewhat more notice. So keep an eye open in subsequent editions of the Newsletter. Again, we really appreciate your support.

Next year we are expecting the Fete to be held on Saturday 7 July (again 12 noon until 4.00pm) – put a note in your diary so you won't forget it!

Kevin Chapman, Pastor, East Coker Christian Fellowship, Burton Lane

EAST COKER READING GROUP

We have two Groups meeting once a month. The evening group meets in individual member's homes on the first Tuesday of each month and the daytime group usually meets in the East Coker Tea Rooms on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month.

We have recently been reading 'The King's General' by Daphne Du Maurier and we are now reading 'My Enemy's Cradle' by Sara Young. As the Library now charges Reading Groups a monthly fee we, in turn, charge a fee of 50p to each member.

If you are interested in joining either group or wish to have more details of what we do please do contact Kevin Chapman on 07812726853 or 422594 or email ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk

EAST COKER 400 CLUB

The results of the Summer Draw are as follows: £100 Mrs A Davidge; £50 Mrs R Kilbee (for Eva); £40 Mr R Mead; £30 Mrs H Snook; £20 Mrs K Privett; £15 Mrs P Smith; £10 Mrs B Sugg; £10 Mrs P M Boast.

The 400 Club has been pleased to send a donation of £500 to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance.

The annual subscription is £20 payable quarterly by Bankers Order if possible. There are four draws a year with cash prizes from £100 to £10, and donations to local charities or organisations are made twice a year.

Anyone wishing to join the 400 Club should please contact Gloria Mead 862364; Mary Ashley 862263; Arthur Rees 862828 or Mike Weston 862472

EAST COKER FLOWER SHOW & WINE FESTIVAL

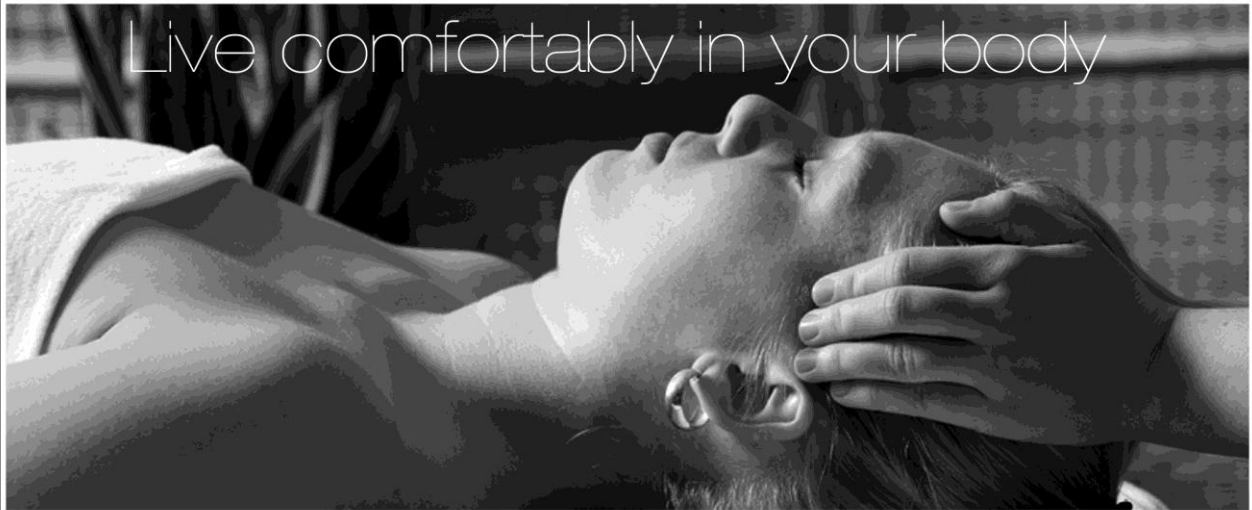
We had an amazing day, the entries were up and there was a lot of new faces, thank you all. Thank you, too, David Pryor for the wonderful photographic display.

The photography classes for next year are

Christmas; Friendship; This England; Boats; New Born;
2 different subjects inside and outside (x4)

Thank you, Sarah Rashley

Live comfortably in your body



Are you suffering from joint and muscle stiffness, high blood pressure, headaches or postural and mobility issues, or are you feeling stressed and finding it difficult to cope with your life? Massage can help! As well as smoothing out the aches and pains and tensions it can also contribute to your general sense of well being and aliveness.

Why not take the opportunity to find out how that might feel?

I am a qualified massage practitioner and I live and work in East Coker. You will be treated with sensitivity and respect at all times within a homely and peaceful environment.

To have a chat and/or book an appointment call Rosie on 01935 862767 or 07733121819.

AUTUMN!

Autumn is the 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' as John Keats wrote. Please, therefore, consider your neighbours before having a bonfire in the middle of the day. Late afternoon allows washing to be dried, leaves to be raked and gardening to be done without having to retreat indoors from bonfire smoke.



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EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

October to January Programme

13 October	Owls r Us – Jo and Nigel Palmer
10 November	AGM – followed by a meal and skittles at the Quicksilver Mail
8 December	Christmas Social Evening and Quiz
12 January 2012	Old and New Roses in the Garden – Dinah Lindon-Critchley

Next year's Club holiday which has been arranged for 24-27 April, will be based on Oxford and includes visits to Waddesdon Manor, Stowe Landscape Gardens and Great Chalfield Manor and Garden.

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

Further information can be obtained from Catherine Denney, Hon. Secretary 862294 or Stan Shayler, Hon. Treasurer 420291.

EAST COKER CRICKET CLUB

In October 2011 we are planning a fundraising event. Anyone in the village who has apples can bring them to the ground where we will chop and press them into juice. The juice is fantastic, consumed as pressed, or even better if left a little longer and made into cider. More details will be available soon on our website.

Martin Kearvell

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EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

Our Annual Poetry Competition will be on Tuesday 25 October at 7.30pm.

All meetings will be at The Helyar Arms, East Coker and will start at 7.30 pm.

Contact Group Co-ordinator David Cloke 862623 or Ian White 864206

EAST COKER PLAYERS S.O.S. SAVE OUR SHOW

The players are urgently seeking a person who could join them and play the piano/organ for rehearsals and during the three performances of their pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk, to be performed on Friday 2 and Saturday 3 December.

If anyone could help, or for further information, please contact Hazel Giddings 429163.

We held an American Supper Sing-along Social and had a display on the stage for the Village Fete this summer. It was lovely to see the East Coker Jug Band reform and entertain us, along with our wandering minstrel John.

We would like to thank everyone who entered our guessing competitions which raised £23 towards our next production.

We are pleased to announce that our next production will be the Pantomime – JACK & THE BEANSTALK. Performances will be on Friday 2 December at 7.30pm and on Saturday 3 December at 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Ticket price Adults £5.00. Children under 16 £4.00. Group bookings - buy 10 tickets and get another ticket free. Tickets for all performances will be available from Vicky at the Village Shop shortly. Come along and enjoy some family entertainment.

After our summer break we started rehearsals and we are pleased to welcome Simon, Drew, Olivia, Ashley and Gilly to the Players. If you have been thinking of joining, it's not too late.

We also have a couple of vacancies in our back-stage team; you would be involved with building the set, changing backdrops and carrying on large props during the performances. If interested contact our Stage Manager – Norman Clifton – on 862742

If you would like to join us or help behind the scenes (there is always plenty to do) during this production contact Anne Hartley 862060 or Hazel Giddings 429163

EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

We are now getting close to The Poppy Appeal 2011. The start date is Saturday 29 October to Sunday 13 November. To date the 2010 Appeal has reached £35,867,847 and is likely to reach £36m. The target for 2011 is £40 million. Please give generously to our volunteer collectors when they call in this our 90th year. The donations are as much needed today as they were 90 years ago. Would you like to be a collector? It takes about five hours of your time, just once a year. Please contact myself 862782 or Marilyn Smith 863944 if you feel you would like to help our servicemen and women.

It has taken the RBL a good few years to rid itself of the stigma that we only assist those veterans and dependents from the two World Wars. With the Afghan crisis continuing, we are supporting a much younger group of veterans and their families. We must still not forget the older generation, which now includes personnel who returned from the Falklands in 1982. Within the next ten years, those who have served in Iraq and the many other conflicts will require assistance as they grow older and Post Traumatic stress disorder or other war related illnesses take effect.

For the record here are a few statistics for 2010.

1. Completed 160,000 calls for help through our welfare services.
2. Secured £9.1 million in income gained and helped write off £18.3 million in debt for beneficiaries struggling to cope financially.
3. Provided 5,050 free short-breaks for older veterans, and 1,400 household benefitted from our week-long Family Adventure Breaks.
4. Helped to change the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme.
5. Achieved total incoming resources of £115 million.
- 6.

We quietly and efficiently get on with the job and with your help – we will continue.

Diary Dates

Saturday 22 October – Branch Coffee Morning at East Coker Hall, 10.30am to 12 noon.

Sunday 13 November – Remembrance Sunday Service, St Michael's Church, 10.50 am

Tuesday 29 November – Branch AGM, Dampier Room, East Coker Hall, 7.30pm

Chairman: David Holland 862782; Secretary: Marilyn Smith 863944; Acting Membership Secretary Caroline Field 863271

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EAST COKER PRESERVATION TRUST

Proposed Core Strategy and Development of Housing

We hope you have heard about the threat to East Coker from the possible development of housing to the south of Yeovil known as South Somerset District Council's Core Strategy. If this goes ahead the parish will be swamped by housing which will virtually join the village onto Yeovil.

The East Coker Preservation Trust feels that we must prevent such a development and therefore it is vital that we gather as much help from the local community as possible.

Much has been done so far to raise awareness of this threat in the National and local media and the issue is soon to be on the BBC's 'Countryfile' programme on 2 October.

If we are to be effective in stopping this development, we do need some more help. Just a little bit of your time please.

There are all sorts of activities needed; from research, reading documents, emailing or writing to councillors, or simply delivering newsletters around the area.

There is an open meeting at The East Coker Hall on **Wednesday 26 October at 7.30pm.**

We hope as many of you as possible will be able to come along to this and find out what has been happening over the past two months. But if you can offer any help before then, please contact:

- Martyn Sowerbutts 863313 martyn.butts@virgin.net
- Sandra Snelling 862162 sandra.snelling@gmail.com

With regard to the future, at its meeting on 18 September, the Trust decided that, as we believe South Somerset District Council will try at all costs to pursue their proposals for some 3,700 houses in the Parish of East Coker, we will have to mount a legal challenge. It was calculated that an initial £10,000 would be required for this.

It was proposed that the electorate of East Coker be asked to indemnify this amount on the basis of pledges of £100. This would **NOT** be required now but when the legal bills occur then people will be asked to honour their pledges.

For further information on this, or to make a pledge, please contact the Trust's Treasurer, Richard Vanderpump on 864565. Thank you very much

Martyn Sowerbutts and Sandra Snelling

East Coker Preservation Trust Committee

Joe Coles

John Fysh

Martyn Sowerbutts

Amelia Bennett

Richard Vanderpump

Peter Woodford

Sandra Snelling

EAST COKER MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

The monthly coffee mornings continue to generate worthwhile contributions to the various charities that come along to these enjoyable Friday morning get-togethers.

In July, the charity was Action Medical Research which was well supported and raised £460. Then in August we had the event for Project Atlas. This too was well supported and raised £250.

This month, on 30 September the charity will be Leukaemia Research, followed by Yeovil Night Shelter in October and Children in Need in November.

After the Christmas and New Year break, the next event will be on the last Friday of January and this will be for Help For Heroes, so we are looking forward to a really big turnout to support this excellent cause.

If there is a charity which anyone would like to choose for a future event, please contact either Cherry or Penny on the phone numbers below.

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313 Penny Marpole 863055

ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

Thank you to all of you who supported our very popular Cream Tea Promotion again back in July. We delivered 550 individual Cream Teas in and around the Yeovil area and made £2,600 profit. Thank you also to those of you who supported our Charity Coffee Morning at the Helyar Arms at the end of July where we raised £460.

We also had a stall at The Goosey Fayre on 24 September and raised £224. Phil and Liz have kindly donated the profit from the Fayre to Action Research this year and this will be another £600. Our thanks to them.

Next year is the Charity's 60th Anniversary and 30 years since a committee was formed in East Coker. Details of events next year will be in future newsletters.

Jane Donnelly

EAST COKER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

We meet on the last Thursday of each month at the hall at 7.30pm. Interesting and varied speakers are always on the agenda. New members or potential members are always welcome. We also run a whist drive each month at the East Coker Hall on the third Thursday of the month also starting at 7.30pm. This is open to anyone who likes to play and there are good prizes to be won. Friendly skittles evenings are usually arranged during the winter months. For further information, please contact Secretary Audrey Spurr 862342.

Dates for the diary

Thursday 20 October	Whist Drive	East Coker Hall 7.30pm
Thursday 27 October	The Theatre by Beryl Snaddon	East Coker Hall 7.30pm
Friday 4 November	Social skittles evening with partners	Quicksilver Mail 7.00pm.
Monday 7 November	Craft Day	Christian Fellowship Hall 10.00am – 4.00pm.
Thursday 17 November	Whist Drive	East Coker Hall 7.30pm
Thursday 24 November	Life under the Sheik by Shenna Holloway	East Coker Hall 7.30pm
Thursday 8 December	Christmas Meal	
Thursday 15 December	Whist Drive	East Coker Hall 7.30pm

EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

Our programme up to the end of the year features three commercial wine-tastings. The first of these will held on Wednesday, 12 October, and will be presented by Majestic Wines of Yeovil. One of the Circle's honorary members, who has lived in France for the past 20 years, will be presenting a tasting of French cheeses and the wines to match them when he visits the Circle on Wednesday, 2 November. The final tasting of the year will be a fun evening, 'Would I Lie to You' with members presenting commercial wines they have selected. At this meeting there will also be a competition for white, brown and machine assisted bread, which will be sampled with cheese and wine. There is no meeting in January. Members continue to

make their mark winning trophies at major wine festivals and hope to continue to keep East Coker 'on the map' at the South Western Counties Federation Wine Festival at Bideford this month. New members and guests always welcome.

Please contact the Secretary on 862816, email us on mail@eastcokerwinecircle.co.uk or visit our website, www.eastcokerwinecircle.co.uk

Diary dates

Wednesday 12 October – Majestic Wines, Commercial Tasting

Wednesday 2 November – French Wine and Cheese Tasting

Wednesday 7 December – 'Would I Lie to You', Commercial Tasting

Young People

EAST COKER TEA-ROOMS

Ann, Marilyn Penny and the students welcome regular and new customers to The Tearooms (near the School). We are open every day from 9.00am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday throughout the year for Coffee and Cakes, Light Lunches and Tea and Cakes, serving good home-cooked food.

Cream Teas are also available with prior notice.

We are closed Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays.

For more information visit our website www.eastcokertearooms.co.uk Telephone 863351

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

Autumn Jumble Sale Saturday 15 October at East Coker Hall from 2.00pm. **REMEMBER WE WILL COLLECT.** Contact Max Bugler 862186

Waste Paper Collections: The collection point is opposite the School on the last Saturday of each month from 8.30am to 10.30am. If possible please flat-pack your newspapers and tie into bundles.

Saturday 29 October

Saturday 26 November

Saturday 31 December

EAST COKER PLAYGROUP

The long 'lazy' days of summer are over and playgroup is back to a full house. The Playgroup waved 20 children off to start their school careers this summer, and this autumn we have welcomed back returning children (my, how they have grown) and have been supporting the children starting at the Playgroup. The days seem quite autumnal and I am sure I am not the only one looking forward to a welly-boot walk. I hope the walk will be complete with puddles to gaze into and marvel at the reflections, a quick stir up of the water and watch the mud swirl, forming muddy clouds in the puddle and then a huge leap and splash! We say goodbye to summer and look towards autumn, what will the season bring? What will the children discover, explore and enjoy as the year turns?

East Coker Playgroup welcome children from the age of 2½ years and EYE is available in the funding period after the third birthday. We are open during term time every weekday morning, and Tuesday, Wednesday and (new this term) Thursday afternoons, and offer optional lunch cover for children who like to bring a packed lunch. The wealth of experience of our fully qualified staff offers quality childcare and education through play, exploring the wider environment and local community with project-based activities. Ofsted have consistently given the group excellent reports and commended us for the interaction and encouragements between staff and children, partnership with parents, teaching, management and the emphasis on fun. Find us on www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk

On Sunday 6 November 2011 from 10.00am to 3.00pm, the Playgroup's next fundraising event is our annual Craft Fair. Come along and make a start to your Christmas shopping. We look forward to seeing you there. Watch out for more information nearer the date.

Stalls are available; please contact Hayley Midgley on 471432 for information.

The Churches

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

The Rev'd Charles Hatton writes: "My first three months here have been busy, dealing with the many practicalities of settling in after the move, alongside taking up the reins of my new appointment. But it's been very enjoyable getting to know members of the three churches, as well as meeting many members of the wider community at village events over the course of the summer. July provided a significant first. Never before have I celebrated a church's 900th Anniversary. It was wonderful to do so at Sutton Bingham when over 100 people squeezed in for a specially-devised Service to try to do justice to so great an occasion.

Looking ahead, October and November take us through Harvest, All Souls and Remembrance, all of which we mark with special Services when we gladly welcome any who would like to join us. The annual Service of Remembrance is especially important – particularly so when the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan brings home the continuing sacrifices made by members of our Armed Forces in the service of our country. I understand last year's December snow caused some disruption to the Christmas Services. Who knows what lies in wait weather-wise this year but, whatever happens, the prospect of our first Christmas here is one to which I greatly look forward."

Services

Sunday 2 October	10.30am	Harvest Family Eucharist	6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 9 October	8.00am	Holy Communion	10.30am	Family Service
Sunday 16 October	10.00am	Sung Eucharist	6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 23 October	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 30 October	10.30am	TBA	6.00pm	All Souls Service
Sunday 6 November	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	Cool Sunday. Curry lunch at Vicarage	
	6.00pm	Evensong		
Sunday 13 November	8.00am	Holy Communion	10.50am	Remembrance
Sunday 20 November	10.00am	Sung Eucharist	6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 27 November	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 4 December	10.30am	Sung Eucharist	6.00pm	Evensong
Sunday 11 December	8.00am	Holy Communion	10.30am	Sung Eucharist
Sunday 18 December	10.00am	Sung Eucharist	6.00pm	Carol Service
Christmas Eve	11.00pm	Midnight Mass		
Christmas Day	10.30am	Family Christmas Eucharist		

Music and Poetry at St Michael's

On Saturday 15 October at 7.30 pm at St Michael's church, the Phoenix Singers from Taunton will be giving a concert, which will also include poetry readings by some members of the East Coker Poetry Group. You can see details of the music that the choir will be singing at www.thephoenixsingers.co.uk

This promises to be a wonderful evening of music and poetry, in a beautiful setting, with half the proceeds going to the church. Tickets are available from Ian White 864206. Please do come along and enjoy the evening.

Service for those we have loved but see no longer.

This year the service is on Sunday 30 October at 6.00pm at St Michael's Church. The preacher will be our new vicar Rev Charles Hatton. During the service the names of our loved ones will be read out. If you would like your loved ones names included please let me have the names by 26 October. As the list is a long one we tend to use only one Christian name with the surname.

If you would like further details of the service please do not hesitate to give me a ring on 862834. Monica

Confirmation

Several of the young people at Closworth and East Coker have expressed a wish to be confirmed at the Deanery Confirmation service at St John's Church Yeovil on 20 October. We are starting classes shortly. If there are any young people interested in joining us please contact me as soon as possible. If there are any adults who would like to be confirmed please contact the vicar direct.

HARVEST SUPPER

Wednesday 5 October at the East Coker Hall, 7.00pm for 7.30pm. Tickets £7 from Penny 863055 or the Village Store

ALL SAINTS' CLOSWORDH

Closworth Services

Sunday 09 October – Evensong - **this will be a special Shoe Box Service**

Sunday 16 October – Family Service – 6.30pm

Sunday 23 October – Communion – 9.00am

Sunday 13 November – Special service of Remembrance – 6.30pm – Derek has kindly agreed to play the Last Post for the 2 minutes silence

Sunday 20 November – Family Service – with a special guest speaker

Sunday 27 November – 9.00am – Holy Communion

Sunday 11 December – 6.30pm – Carol Service

In December, the Family Service will be on 24 December, Christmas Eve, at 4.00pm. It will take the form of a Nativity presentation with carols and readings. I hope that the younger children will come dressed as Shepherds, Kings and Angels. The service lasts about 30 minutes and all ages are welcome. For further details please phone me on 862834

Wanted: more bellringers!

Last year we recruited 5 bell ringers for Closworth. Sadly one dropped out due to an operation and two have now moved. **We Need More** – please! Monica 862834

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SUTTON BINGHAM – 900TH YEAR

2 October	9.00am	Holy Communion	16 October	11.30am	Sung Holy Communion
6 November	9.00am	Holy Communion	23 November	11.30am	Sung Holy Communion
4 December	9.00am	Holy Communion	18 December	11.30am	Sung Holy Communion
20 December	6.00pm	Carol Service			

On 31 July a 900th year Celebration Service was held to commemorate 900 years of recorded worship. 100 people attended in lovely weather. Heather and Carol would like to thank everyone who contributed to the preparation of food etc but especially to Penny and Derek Marpole and John Burgess for their help with the marquee. We now look forward to celebrating 1000 years!

Churchwardens Carol Blackmore 862192 Heather Snook 474138

EAST COKER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, BURTON LANE

Weekly Meetings. Sundays – 11.00am. 2nd Sunday of the month is a Family Service. Other services as announced. **All** are welcome to **all** of our services.

Coffee Stop. The Hall is open every Wednesday from 11.00am until 1.00pm for coffee and tea. There are usually some 10-14 present. Everyone is 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.

We also run a Home Group for anyone interested in discussing the Christian faith, and there is a youth group meeting midweek for those between 18 and 30.

Little Wheelers is a mother and toddler group meeting in the East Coker Hall on a Tuesday morning from 10.30am until 12 noon.

Christmas Meetings On 11 December at 11.00am we shall be holding our Christmas Family Service. The speaker expected is Mike Strange the Counties Evangelist who visits the children at East Coker Primary School on a regular basis (not sure whether Dunk the Dog is making an appearance).

On 18 December at 4.00pm we shall be holding our Carol Service (followed by a Buffet Tea). On 25 December we shall be holding a service at 10.30am. Please encourage your children to bring along their favourite present (if it's manageable!) or bring your own favourite to show everyone.

Kevin Chapman is available from Tuesday to Friday. He can be contacted on 07812726853 or 01935 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.

'Unto Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen' Ephesians, chapter 3, verses 20 and 21.

BIBLE MID-WEEK MEETINGS

A Series in Luke 18 – 'Lessons on the Road'

Wednesday 19 October, 7.00pm – Doug Johnson – Luke 18: 18-30 – About trusting completely

Wednesday 16 November, 7.00pm – Tim Lewis – Luke 18: 31-43 – About seeing Jesus clearly

Wednesday 21 December, 7.00pm – Jonathan Fletcher – Carol Service

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

For further information – please contact Edward 862785 or Roy 862519

Village News

EAST COKER VILLAGE STORE

We will once again be holding our traditional Christmas display at the Village Store for you to come along and order your Christmas goodies. For those of you who have not been with us very long, we arrange a display over a few days of items such as advent calendars, selection boxes, chocolates, Turkish Delight, all the usual Christmas treats, plus some items which are more specialised and specific to the Village Store not available from the supermarkets. A form is completed to order your goods, and the Christmas elves get it ready for payment and collection towards the end of November into early December.

The dates for this year's Christmas display are Wednesday 2 November, Thursday 3 November and Friday 4 November. We look forward to seeing you there.

Important information As a Village Store, we feel we have a different relationship with our customers, compared to for example a high street shop. We consider our customers as friends and care about their wellbeing. This is why we feel it important to keep you informed about the Store and pass on information about our situation which would normally not be spoken about until it was too late. We have previously attempted to inform people gently that the store is not doing too well, but we have now got to the stage where we just need to say it straight. At current levels, the Village Store is slowly failing, and the reality is that we may not be here this time next year. Of course, we understand the rights of everyone to shop as, when and where they please. We understand the current economic climate and appreciate that everyone has to do what is best for them but perhaps you could review your shopping list and see if you could purchase some of these items from us. You may be surprised at how competitive we are. By supporting us you are also supporting other small local businesses. We knew it would be hard once the Post Office was closed and we are not trying to pressurise, cajole, force or offend anyone in mentioning this very personal matter. We are not begging or pleading, we just want to inform our community about the situation before it's too late. We do not want to follow in the footsteps of many other village shops that have been forced to close but we need everyone to show us that we are not in this alone. Please imagine how you would miss us if we were no longer here. **If you want us, we need you!**

Floral Corner - A Little Chat with Elaine

Hi to you all, a lot of you will already know me, maybe from school, or just from living in the village, but maybe more recently from helping out in our wonderful village store. Back in December last year Paul, Vicky, Leigh and myself got our heads together to try and think of another service we could offer our village. As I am a fully qualified florist the idea of providing flowers was suggested. Hence, in January this year, 'Floral Corner' was born.

The name Floral Corner suits us very well as it is situated at the back of the shop in the corner, but what a wonderful corner it is. We have a wide selection of cut flowers and many other interesting items such as, seeds, vases, wicker and tin ware. I am in my corner every weekday morning from 9.30ish until 1.00pm where I find it very rewarding being surrounded by beautiful flowers and creating individual arrangements and bouquets to suit all budgets and tastes.

A particular passion of mine is weddings, and I have been lucky enough to have been involved in 3 local weddings. Over the past 9 months I have gained many regular customers all of whom comment on the variety and quality of our stock, in particular our Lillies, which we can get in a range of colours with several beautiful heads and at £3.00 a stem we have been told they are good value as they are so long-lasting.

With Christmas rapidly approaching, now is the time to think about suitable gifts for our loved ones, and with times being hard I will be offering many pretty gifts to suit all budgets. These will be on show at the East Coker Village Store Christmas display. If you haven't visited me yet please pop and see me in my corner.

Hope to see you soon - Elaine

SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY

The mobile library visiting times have changed and will be on a Tuesday every four weeks at The Helyar Arms – 2.30pm – 2.45pm. This is now the only stopping point in East Coker.

4 October 1 November 29 November 24 January 2012

LOCAL ORGANIC FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BOX SCHEME – delivered free to East Coker

In an attempt to support our local Somerset organic farmers, there is now a drop-off point in East Coker village for you to buy a vegetable box or fruit box. FLAXDRAYTON ORGANIC are delivering free of charge to Compton Cottage (up past the church, top of the hill). They deliver every Wednesday morning. You can order weekly or fortnightly, or ad-hoc, the week before and pay on the day at any time.

The price of a standard vegetable or fruit box is £6.50 or a large vegetable or fruit box is £9.00, and 5 kg sack of potatoes £3.00. If you would like to try a box please contact Sarah Palmer 862369 for more details or email sarahpalmer66@hotmail.com

STAMPS FOR C.L.I.C. (Cancer & Leukaemia in Children)

Thank you to the residents of East Coker for their used stamps. Please keep taking them into The Stores. They are then reused to make money for this charity which funds vital research. Vicki will accept them and Lesley Lindsay will take them to the shop. With Christmas only months away be sure to save the stamps from your cards and presents.

W.E.A. EAST COKER BRANCH – Science and Society

Six weekly meetings from 27 September, in the Dampier Room, East Coker Hall, from 2.30pm – 4.00pm. Tutor John Baxter. Cost £29.00.

Enquiries to Sarah Smith 862466

WESTLAKE SURGERY – Flu Vaccination Clinics

This year's clinics are being held on Thursday 6 and Tuesday 18 October 2011 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 of Dr Cox, Dr Smith and Dr Cotton only.

Due to the limited supply of vaccine, these clinics will **ONLY** be for patients who are over 65 years of age, or are a pregnant woman, or on the 'At Risk' register of chronic diseases, or registered carers of the latter group.

If you are in any doubt of eligibility for vaccination, please contact the surgery on 862212. Refreshments will be available during the sessions

HEDGE-LAYING IN HATHERSTONE WOOD (MILLENNIUM WOODS)

Volunteers are wanted to join the work party currently laying the hedge in Hatherstone Wood. Full instruction given. Dates are 13 and 15 October, and 17 and 19 November. Do as few or as many hours as you wish.

For more details, please phone Chris Blight on 863689.

EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

Since July, necessary work on the **Pavilion** has been completed to comply with legal requirements. The Completion Certificate, confirming that the building meets current Building Regulations, has been received from South Somerset District Council. Some of the building work will enhance the efficiency of the building as well as making it an even more useful community amenity.

The Parish Council is responsible for the care and upkeep of the **Cemetery**, and reviews of the building and the hedges are being undertaken to ensure that any necessary extra work is identified and completed.

The proposed **30mph speed limit** initially gained a large level of support from the Parishioners; however, once plans were formalised, identifying the number and positioning of signs required to meet Highways regulations, it was clear that the scheme would cause a significant impact on the visual beauty of the Parish, particularly around the Paddock area. Strong views on this were presented by a number of Councillors, and attending Parishioners; this ultimately led to the refusal of the implementation. However, as an alternative, work is now underway by Councillors to investigate different methods for improving road safety. The investigation will:

1. *Ensure minimal use of additional signage and street furniture so as not to impact on the visual beauty of the Parish.*
2. *Focus on addressing issues at high risk areas though overall risk throughout the Parish will also be considered.*
3. *Consider other road safety issues whilst maintaining speeding through the Parish as the priority.*

This process began on 17 August 2011 when Councillors met with Colin Fletcher (Area Traffic Engineer, South Somerset Highways). Progress will be reported. ECPC requests that villagers be aware of their own speed while driving through the village and encourage others to drive safely.

Kevin Mousley of the BBC Radio 4 Programme, 'You and Yours', met with Councillors and others as part of a piece he produced on the **proposed Urban Extension**. The broadcast took place on 8 September and can be accessed on the BBC website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b014629y#p00kb0jp>

The ongoing opposition to this development continues to focus the Parish Council and details of discourse with South Somerset District Council and others on this issue can be found at www.eastcokerparish.com. Martyn Sowerbutts of the East Coker Preservation Trust addressed the September meeting to ensure full understanding between the Trust and the Parish Council.

Since the last edition of this newsletter, there have been a number of people showing interest in the possibility of using an **allotment** in East Coker and we continue to consider the viability of providing this facility. Please contact Kath Wilson on 475029 or kath.wilson@sky.com if you would be interested.

The **Queen's Diamond Jubilee** takes place from Saturday 2 to Wednesday 6 June 2012. The Parish Council wants to ascertain if there is interest in holding a celebration event at the Pavilion in Long Furlong Lane. It would be splendid if village groups could be involved, organising activities during the day, possibly leading to a 'Picnic in the Park' or similar event with music in the evening. To formulate plans, it is intended to hold a meeting, so if you are interested in sponsoring, taking part or contributing any ideas, please contact Councillor Judith Shaw on 863218 or judith.shaw@O2.co.uk

To further enhance the beauty of the village, we are holding a **bulb planting event** on Saturday 5 November. The Parish Council will buy bulbs, but if villagers would like to donate bulbs that would be very welcome. Councillor Bridget Sugg 863435 will coordinate planting and asks for volunteers to join her for bacon sandwiches and coffee at the Pavilion at 9.30am on that day. Having been fortified, volunteers, who will need to bring their own tools, will be given high-vis jackets and choose where to plant, in and around the village. Children are most welcome, but please bring an adult along with you. To register your interest or for any further information or offers to donate, please contact Bridget.

The Parish Council hopes to produce a **Neighbourhood Plan** mapping the future aspiration of the village for the coming years. Parishioners will be invited to submit their views.

If you would like to find out more or make comments on any matters relating to the Parish Council, please contact Pauline Gubbins, Parish Clerk on 862062; clerk@eastcokerpc1.wanadoo.co.uk or Councillor Stan Shayler, Chairman on 420291; stanleyshayler@aol.com. All Council meetings are open to the public and take place in the Pavilion, Long Furlong Lane at 7.00pm on the second Wednesday of the month. The Public can contribute during the first 10 minutes of the meeting. Minutes of meetings are posted electronically on www.eastcokerparish.com as well as being displayed on the Parish Council notice-boards. Councillor Kath Wilson on behalf of East Coker Parish Council

GOOSEY FAYRE

We are sure everyone enjoyed the glorious weather on Saturday 24 September which helped make Goosey Fayre such a great success. We would like to thank the very many people involved, from our suppliers with their generous samples, the craft stall holders and especially to all our volunteer fund-raisers with their many varied stalls.

The piglets were actually born on 20 June, so congratulations to Brian Vaux on winning the Christmas goose, with the closest guess. There were 106 sweets in the jar, accurately guessed by Sue Green.

A grand total of £824 was raised for our chosen charity this year, Action Medical Research. We were really pleased with the huge attendance and would like to thank everyone who came along.

We are already taking Christmas goose and meat orders, so if we can help, call in or give us a ring. We look forward to serving you soon.

The Dunnings, Goose Slade Farm Shop 863735.

THE YEOVIL CONCERT BAND

A Christmas Concert featuring The Scrumpy Sax Quartet will be held at East Coker Hall on Friday 9 December at 7.00pm in aid of Yeovil Heartbeat.

Tickets £7, under 18's £3.50, to include a glass of wine or fruit juice and mince pies, are available on the door or from Steph Talbot 862654 and Sarah Baker 413598 sarahsupersax51@yahoo.com

RAINFALL IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF THE YEAR

Thus Abraham Cowley (1618-1667), who cheerfully starts his verse more briskly than can we 330 years later:

'The thirsty earth soaks up the rain,
And drinks, and gapes for drink again.
The plants suck in the earth, and are
With constant drinking fresh and fair.'

After a comparatively dry year in 2010 when the annual rainfall was 28ins (71.1cm), compared with the annual average between 1996 and 2010 of 38ins (96.5cm), rainfall in the last three months of 2011 will have to be vigorous to improve the situation. After nine months, this year's fall is 20ins (50.8cm), and to achieve the average of 38ins (96.5cm), this quarter will have to generate 18ins (47.5cm), that is, 6ins (15.2cm) per month. Don't count on it!

This year in particular has produced a wide range of weather forecasts by the 'experts' which the wise will have declined to place bets on. In the penultimate week of September it was forecast – for example – that a heat-wave would dominate the last week. Place your bets only on meteorologists' craniums perspiring heavily between now and the start of October; and go carefully with the 'constant drinking' propagated by the poet Cowley

Clive Bingley

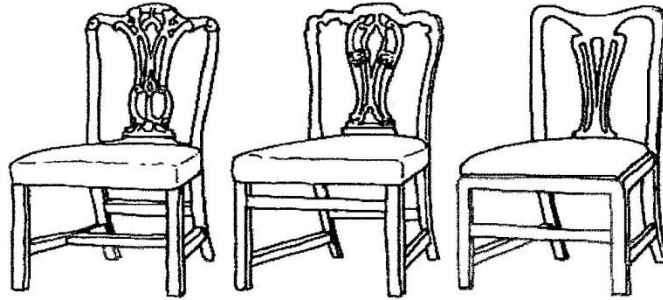
NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in January 2012. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or e-mail l.lindsay@eastcoker.com or to The Stores, East Coker by Tuesday 3 January 2012 at the very latest. Thank you.

VILLAGE DIARY: OCTOBER 2011 – JANUARY 2012

Tues 4 Oct	Library	Helyar Arms	2.30pm - 2.45pm
Wed 5 Oct	Harvest Supper	East Coker Hall	7.00pm for 7.30pm
Wed 12 Oct	Wine Circle	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Thurs 13 Oct	Gardening Club – Owls	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 15 Oct	Scouts – Jumble Sale	East Coker Hall	2.00pm
Sat 15 Oct	Music & Poetry	St Michael's Church	7.30pm
Thurs 20 Oct	W I – Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 21 Oct	ECCP School – Half Term Begins		
Sat 22 Oct	RBL – Coffee Morning	East Coker Hall	10.30am - 12 noon
Tues 25 Oct	Poetry Group – Competition	Helyar Arms	7.30pm
Wed 26 Oct	Open Meeting	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Thurs 27 Oct	W.I. – Talk by Beryl Snaddon	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 28 Oct	Coffee Morning – Yeovil Night Shelter	Helyar Arms	10.00am - 12 noon
Sat 29 Oct	Scouts' Newspaper Collection	Near the School	8.30am - 10.30am
Mon 31 Oct	ECCP School – Half Term Ends		
Tues 1 Nov	Library	Helyar Arms	2.30pm - 2.45pm
Wed 2 / Fri 4 Nov	The Village Store – Christmas Display		Usual Opening Hours
Wed 2 Nov	Wine Circle	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 4 Nov	W I – Social & Skittles	Quicksilver Mail	7.00pm
Sat 5 Nov	Playgroup – Craft Fair	The Pavilion	10.00am - 3.00pm
Mon 7 Nov	W I – Craft Day	Burton Lane	10.00am-4.00pm
Thurs 10 Nov	Gardening Club – AGM	Quicksilver Mail	7.30pm
Sun 13 Nov	Remembrance Sunday	St Michael's Church	10.50am
Thurs 17	W I – Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Sat 19 Nov	Winter Fayre	East Coker Hall	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Thurs 24 Nov	W I – Talk	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 25 Nov	Coffee Morning – Children in Need	Helyar Arms	10.00am - 12 noon
Sat 26 Nov	Scouts' Newspaper Collection	Near the School	8.30am - 10.30am
Mon 28 Nov	Time To Share – Carol Service	St Michael's Church	2.30pm
Tues 29 Nov	Library	Helyar Arms	2.30pm - 2.45pm
Fri 2 & Sat 3 Dec	The Players – Pantomime – Jack & the Beanstalk	East Coker Hall	7.30pm & 2.30pm
Wed 7 Dec	Wine Circle	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Thurs 8 Dec	W I – Christmas Meal		
Thurs 8 Dec	Gardening Club – Social & Quiz	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 9 Dec	Yeovil Concert Band	East Coker Hall	7.00pm
Thurs 15 Dec	W I – Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Fri 16 Dec	ECCP School – Term 2 Ends		
Sun 18 Dec	Carol Service	St Michael's Church	6.00pm
Sat 31 Dec	Scouts' Newspaper Collection	Near the School	8.30am - 10.30am
Tues 3 Jan	Last date for January's Newsletter		
Wed 4 Jan	ECCP School – Term 3 Begins		
Thurs 12 Jan	Gardening Club – Roses	East Coker Hall	7.30pm

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



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