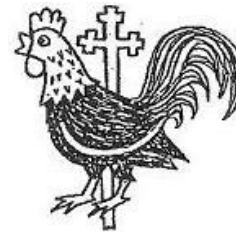


East Coker Society Newsletter



OCTOBER 2013

Free Issue No 152

Chair: John Sugg	863435	
Secretary: Sarah Owen	862218	
Treasurer: Martin Wells	864198	
Newsletter Editor: Lesley Lindsay	862868	l.lindsay@eastcoker.com

East Coker Society News

'DISCOVER EAST COKER' – WALKING PACK

A new 'Discover East Coker' pack which includes photographs, details about places of interest, a detailed map and five fully researched walks supplied in a plastic wallet is available for £2 from the following outlets:

East Coker Village Store	The Forester's Arms
East Coker Tea Rooms	The Helyar Arms
Goose Slade Farm Shop	The Yeovil Court Hotel
Butchers & Post Office, West Coker	Yeovil Tourist Information Centre
St Michael's Church Bookstall	Cartgate Tourist Information Centre

We hope residents and visitors will use this guide to explore our beautiful parish.

VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY – PLEASE USE IT!

The 2013 Diary is now at the Stores, East Coker, and can be found in the shop – please ask. **Please put forthcoming village events in the Diary to avoid dates clashing.** Thank you.

FINAL REMINDER TO BOOK FOR THE WINTER FAYRE

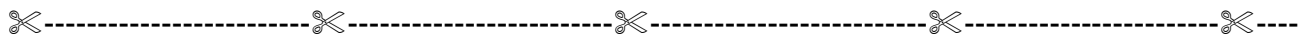
Saturday 16 November 2013, 2.00pm – 4.00pm at East Coker Hall

Tables for the Winter Fayre are now 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 (made payable to East Coker Society) **by Saturday 12 October** to Sarah Owen, Paddock Cottage, East Coker, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 9JP 862218.

This will ensure your stall is reserved.



WINTER FAYRE SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2013, 2.00pm – 4.00pm – EAST COKER VILLAGE HALL

Name of Organisation.....

Type of Stall.....

Contact Name.....

Telephone Number.....email.....

Size of table @ £2 per foot..... enclosed £.....Signed.....

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 and falling ash.

Village Clubs and Organisations

VILLAGE QUIZ – mid-season special

A one-off extra quiz will be held in East Coker Hall on Saturday 19 October to help with fundraising for the Save East Coker campaign.

This special event will include a two course supper (not fish and chips!) but please bring your own drinks.

Tickets are £12 each and all proceeds will go towards the campaign. Doors will open at 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start.

We hope that all the usual teams - and some new ones - will compete, so please contact Cherry Sowerbutts soon to reserve your table for the evening.

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313

TIME TO SHARE

We have enjoyed some great fun throughout the summer months and are sad that those lovely warm sunny days are coming to an end, but we have lots of good things ahead to take us to Christmas.

7 October – Nature talk with Alison and Nigel Charles

21 October – Talk on the Prison Service

4 November – Christmas Bazaar and fund raiser

18 November – The Best Day of My Life

2 December – Carol Service in East Coker Hall

16 December – Christmas Party and lunch

Sandra Snelling 862162 Mobile 07717723448 email sandra.snelling@googlemail.com

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER

As we come to the time of the Poppy Appeal and Remembrance – Sunday 10 November is Remembrance Sunday – let us just pause for a moment and remember those service personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice serving their country.

A total of 1,270,009 United Kingdom serving personnel died in the two World Wars and in the years since, and over 3,700 have lost their lives in other conflicts around the world.

To name a few – Afghanistan: 444 (2001-date); Iraq: 179 (2003-09); Northern Ireland: 763 (1969-98) Korea: 765 (1950-53); The Falklands: 255(1982); Malaya: 340(1948-60); Borneo: 126 (1962-66); The Balkans: 48 (1992-2001); Cyprus 371(1955-59).

Whenever a fatality occurs during the theatre of war there are likely to be casualties.

During WW2 and up to the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, a lot of those casualties died in the field. Since 2006, 6883 personnel have been aero-medically evacuated from Afghanistan. After treatment and depending on their injuries some return to service, others are discharged into the community. This is when the RBL is there to help providing advice and support to all serving personnel, veterans of all ages and their families. We spend 1.6M a week supporting the Armed Forces.

Every year the nation helps the work of the Legion through its support of the Poppy Appeal. Please give generously when our Poppy collectors call between 26 October and 9 November. **Please Wear Your Poppy with Pride.**

If you feel you would like to be one of the Poppy Team please contact me, Marilyn Smith 863944 or Wendy Weston 862472.

It's only for 3-5 hours once a year. For an injured serviceman/woman or a grieving dependant it's a lifetime.

From small beginnings great things grow *'In Flanders fields the poppies grow – Between the crosses row on row, – That mark our place; And in the sky – The larks, still bravely singing, fly – Scarce heard amid the guns below'* (written by Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae a Canadian surgeon who died in France during WWI).

Please try to attend our Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning at the East Coker Hall 5 October 10.00am - 12 noon.

Note for diaries: The Branch AGM will be held on Tuesday 19 November 7.30pm - Dampier Room, East Coker Hall.

Thank you. David Holland Chairman 862782

ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

Many thanks to all of you who supported our Cream Teas this year. We delivered just over 700 in the Yeovil area making a profit of £3,260.00. We also delivered 403 by Parcelforce in other parts of the country making a profit of £2,130. This was our best year ever and we have plans in hand to make it even bigger next year.

Our Diva Lunch is on Friday 11 October at The Tithe Barn, Haselbury Mill, Nr Crewkerne at 12 noon. Tickets are £30 to include a two-course lunch, a glass of fizz on arrival, a fashion show, stalls and entertainment.

Tickets are available from www.action.org.uk/diva_lunch or Jane Donnelly 478409

EAST COKER READING GROUP

We have two Groups meeting once a month. The evening group (currently 8 members) meets in individual members' homes for about two hours (usually) on the first Tuesday of each month. The daytime group (currently 5 members) meets for about one hour in the Goose Slade Farm Tea Shop on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month (but venue and days do vary to accommodate members other commitments). As the Library now charges Reading Groups a monthly fee we, in turn, charge a fee of 50p per month to each member. We are a very easy-going group – if you don't like the book, don't feel obliged to read it! The discussions are always interesting - even when the book hardly gets a mention. If you are considering joining either group or wish to have more details of the books we read and what we do please do contact Kevin Chapman on 07812726853 or 422594 or email ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk

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EAST COKER SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

The Bowls Club meets every Tuesday evening 7.30pm - 9.30pm and Friday afternoons 2.30pm - 4.30pm in the East Coker Hall.

We are a friendly club and are looking for experienced and new players to join us. Tuition can be given to those wishing it, and bowls can be provided for your initial practice. Why not come and see for yourself. There is no age limit for adults.

We also have a junior section, and are looking for young players of any age up to 18.

For information regarding the junior section, please contact Mervyn Westlake 863227. For other information, call George Dudden 864222.

D Farrant – Club Chairman

EAST COKER MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

The coffee mornings in June, July and August were well supported and generated £170, £130 and £280 for Ups and Downs, St Margaret's Hospice, and Cancer Research respectively.

The next coffee mornings will be:

- CLIC - 27 September
- Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance – 25 October
- Children in Need – 29 November

Please come along to the Forester's Arms between 10.00am – 12.00pm and give your support to these deserving causes.

Many thanks to Charlotte and all the staff at the Forester's for the support they give to these popular village get-togethers.

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313 Penny Marpole 863055



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Or email: gillianbmacpherson@hotmail.co.uk
Long Furlong Lane, East Coker

Mrs Squishy Squashy isn't happy unless she's Squishing & Squashing your washing

EAST COKER PLAYERS

Rehearsals are under way for this year's Pantomime – Dick Whittington. We have moved from our usual village setting to the City of London and a far away island near the Barbary coast.

Hannah, Isaac, Ryan, Gill and Mary have joined us for this production and we hope they have an enjoyable time.

Performances will be on Friday 29 November at 7.30pm and Saturday 30 November at 2.30pm and 7.30 in the East Coker Hall. Tickets for all performances will be available from Vicky at the Village Store from the 4 November 2013. Adults £5.00; Children £4.00.

Put the dates in your diary to come along and enjoy some traditional family entertainment.

New members welcome. Call in on a Monday rehearsal in the Dampier Room. 7.00pm during October.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Pantomime and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Anne Hartley 86206 Hazel Giddings 429163

EAST COKER FLOWER SHOW AND WINE FESTIVAL

A very good day was had by all, the entries were down but the display of produce, flowers, crafts, photography and wine were of excellent quality.

We saw old and new faces. Well done to you all. There was brilliant display of the children's classes, and the imaginations of each age group were impressive. They put in a lot of effort.

We made £310 and this will be carried over to next year so we can donate a larger sum of money to good causes.

Thank you to everyone who entered and hopefully see you next year.

Sarah Rashley

EAST COKER 400 CLUB

The Summer Draw results are as follows:

£100 Mr R Tower; £50 Mrs Heather Snook; £40 Mr and Mrs Mike Mead; £30 Mr John Burgess; £20 Mrs E Cowley; £15 Mrs Jane Donnelly; £10 Mr Bill Rawlins.

If anyone would like to join the 400 Club, the annual subs are £20 payable quarterly by bankers order. Please contact Gloria Mead 862364, Mary Ashley 862263 Arthur Rees 862828 or Mike Weston 862472

EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

June to September – Summer at last, days of sunshine and warmth – heat even – evenings in the garden watching the bats flying, drink in hand. After the summer of 2012, what a treat!

The past three months have been busy, with Club members and visitors enlightened about the lives of bees, the history of the cottage garden and about the National Trust in South Somerset.

Several trips were made during the period. A conducted tour of the Larmer Tree Gardens at Tollard Royal was enjoyed during June, in spite of rather cool, overcast weather. These gardens were originally designed as 'pleasure grounds for public enlightenment and entertainment' by General Pitt Rivers in 1880 and are an extraordinary example of Victorian extravagance, containing a wonderful collection of ornate buildings retained in an enchanting and tranquil atmosphere. Members enjoyed lunch and afternoon tea, with plenty of free time to wander around the 11 acres of grounds and to admire the immaculate lawns and trimmed hedging. Several members sought out the fairy doors, following the 'Fairy Door Trail' around the grounds. The ornate buildings were admired and a backstage visit of the 'Singing Theatre' (an outdoor stage, still used today), made.

Fine weather in July ensured another successful day's outing, this time to Wilton House near Salisbury. Members enjoyed the house, with its fine paintings and beautifully furnished rooms, as well as the grounds, with the plantings, trees and statuary and the famous Palladian bridge, at their leisure.

August brought visits to Highgrove and to a local Elizabethan property, Newton Surmaville, where we enjoyed a conducted tour of the house, which has been beautifully restored by the current owners, with time to look around the gardens at leisure and partake of a delicious cream tea – the scones were superb. Hard on the heels of our visit to Newton House, 25 members embarked on a tour of Prince Charles' garden at Highgrove near Tetbury. Some of the memories of this trip will be the Stumpery, which is assumed to be the largest in Britain, the walled kitchen garden, the Prince's sanctuary in the grounds, and the use of gates and doors to give the element of suspense when transiting from one garden 'room' to the next. The food (Gardener's Tea – comprising cheese and pickle on toast, scone, jam and clotted cream and a cup of tea) was delicious. And whilst on the subject of scones – is it jam and cream, or cream and jam???

August also saw the judging of the annual growing competition. This year, members were given a begonia plug plant, pot and compost. This was ably judged by Neil Lovesey, who explained what he had looked for in the winning plant. Congratulations to the winner, Catherine Denney, who was presented with a voucher. Several members entered the East Coker Flower Show and were well rewarded for their efforts – our congratulations go to them also.

At the September meeting, Simon Larkin of the National Trust gave an interesting and informative talk about the work of the Trust in South Somerset. Previously at Lytes Cary, Simon is now based in Gloucestershire and his remit covers an extensive range from NT gardens to farms, countryside and woodlands, all on a surprisingly tight budget.

Programme for October – December 2013

10 October Permaculture and a small garden – Patrick Whitehouse
14 November AGM – Quicksilver Mail
12 December Christmas Quiz and Social Evening

The 2014 programme is currently being finalised, but here are a couple of dates to look forward to:

9 January Coppicing - Besom broom for raffle
13 February Plants that changed the world

Other topics to be covered include clivias, plants of South Africa, compost etc. There will also be three or four day trips and the annual 3 - 4 days Club Holiday in April.

Why not join us for one of our evenings? Always an enjoyable, sociable evening, with the added bonus that we learn something new each month. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, commencing at 7.30pm in the East Coker Hall, Halves Lane. For further information, please contact Helen Styles 862447 or Stan Shayler 420291.

EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

Tuesday 29 October – Poetry Competition Results – 7.30pm The Helyar Arms

We have (reluctantly) to charge £2 entrance for any meetings at The Helyar Arms, East Coker.

Our 'Forthcoming Events' are also available on our website www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk. Contact details email info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk or phone David Cloke 862623.

EAST COKER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Diary dates

Thursday 17 October	Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 31 October	The World of Ghosts	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 21 November	Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 28 November	Christmas Floral Art	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 19 December	Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall

For any other information, please contact secretary Ruby Rollo, 475010

CHRISTMAS BINGO

Friday 13 December 2013, East Coker Hall, 7.00pm for 7.15pm start. A fund-raising evening for the East Coker Players Lighting Fund.

Further details contact Sarah Rashley 428639 Hazel Giddings 429163

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EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

New members and guests are always welcome. The Circle meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the East Coker Hall from 8.00pm unless otherwise stated. All fully paid-up members (only £12 annual subscription) receive all tastings free.

The Circle is introducing a frequent wine forum for those dedicated to winemaking and for those wishing to learn about the art.

For further information call 863838 or visit our web site: www.eastcokerwinecircle.co.uk.

Diary Dates

2 October	Wine Tasting 'With a Difference!'
6 November	Tasting by Majestic Wines
4 December	West Coombe Dairy, Cheese-tasting, bread-making competition, bread and cheese supper.
11 January 2014	Annual Theme Party and Dance – 'School Days'. Music by Alan-Lee Hope. Tickets from Chris Branson 863555

SAVE EAST COKER

Following the last day of the hearings in June, the Planning Inspector wrote to SSDC with his Preliminary Findings. He expressed serious concerns about the Plan's soundness in several key areas – the major one being the lack of evidence to support the council's choice of East Coker as the location for the Yeovil Urban Extension. The Council's response to this has been to request a six-month suspension of the Inspector's examination of the Plan. Because of the Inspector's concerns the Council has been forced to spend yet more tax-payers money employing expert consultants to help sort out the mess they have created for themselves.

The consultants are supposed to start with a clean sheet of paper and, in response to the points in the Inspector's preliminary findings, undertake a full re-assessment of all the options for housing growth around Yeovil. But already we are getting the impression that SSDC is trying to constrain the scope of their work to only look seriously at the southern option again. This is not what the Inspector has asked the Council to do.

The Council aims to have an amended Local Plan for publication in mid-November, and it has said that it intends to communicate the changed Plan through a series of 'selective exhibitions in relevant settlements'. Will they be booking East Coker Village Hall? Watch this space! This will be part of another round of Public Consultation lasting till early January.

The revised Plan **plus all the representations** from the consultation will then be sent to the Inspector in mid-March 2014. He will then decide how he will resume the Examination of the Plan and what hearings will be needed.

All this means that we will have to get our planning consultants and lawyers to look very closely at what the updated plan contains and to make robust representations for the consultation, and then to follow up with whatever case we need to put to the hearings in the Spring.

There is a real possibility that SSDC might try to continue with its original idea of building 2500 houses in East Coker despite what they have been told by the planning Inspector, so we will all need be ready to repeat our objections to the plan – even more forcefully than last time. We have shown beyond doubt that we have made a big difference to SSDC's intentions. We now need to keep our eye on the ball to make sure that the final result is what we all want for East Coker. Pencils are being sharpened at this very moment!

Please see the programme of future fundraising events below and continue to give your support to help us sustain the fight.

ECPT contacts

Joe Coles 863146

Martyn Sowerbutts 863313

Richard Vanderpump 864565

Peter Woodford 863633

John Fysh 863963

Sandra Snelling 862162

SAVE EAST COKER FUND RAISING EVENTS

The last three months has been busy with fund raising events that have raised over £19,000! With the Planning Inspector's preliminary findings now published, it all seems very worthwhile indeed and proves that with the right amount of effort and help, the Council's plans can be stopped.

The Appeal letter for donations to Save East Coker has, to date, raised over £13000 with contributions still arriving! We recently had some money from America, which demonstrates the worldwide concern for the village.

The Open Garden, Coffee Morning, and Tombola at the Village Fete raised a further £1800 (Big thanks to Anne and John Cordwell, Sue and Ken Copley and Sandra) with a further £2300 at the Wandering Supper (thanks to Di Miskin).

Coker Court Village Open Day on a very hot July day raised another £1100 (Joe and Tanya, thank you so much) and we received £660 from donations following the sad end to the wonderful life of Diana Bugler. (Thank you Max. She was such a star and, boy, would she be proud of us all).

The BIG BREAKFAST on Sunday 8 September was a huge success, and something to be repeated every year, we hope! We raised £ 800 (thanks to Cherry Sowerbutts and Di Miskin).

Future Fund Raising Events and Dates for Your Diary

Saturday 19 October QUIZ NIGHT, EAST COKER HALL – A one-off mid-term return of this every popular event organized by Martyn and Cherry Sowerbutts. Get a team together and join in the fun. £12 per head to include food. Call 863313 for more information.

Saturday 7 December – GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET, CRYSTAL COURTYARD, HYMERFORD, EAST COKER (courtesy of Diana and Ian) – Come and buy your Christmas goodies, gifts, food and decorations. Fun for **All** the family – 1.00pm – 5.00pm. Children's lantern procession with the Town Band and Father Christmas!

Call 862162 for more information or if you would like to buy a table to sell your wares.

Watch this space for 2014! Lots of great events including a Big Band, another Wandering Supper and some Celebrity Fun! We have to keep it going for at least another 12 months to pay the bills.

Young People

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

Autumn Jumble Sale - Saturday 12 October – 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 26 October

Saturday 30 November

Saturday 28 December

EAST COKER PLAYGROUP – find us on www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk

After a summer of sunshine and ice-cream, we welcome back all returning and new families to East Coker Playgroup. The autumn term is a wonderful time of changing seasons and there is so much to see and do, always making the most of the playgroup setting. We aim to use the outside space as much as possible, boots and coats are a necessity on days when the puddles are there for jumping in. Inside, learning through play includes offering many different opportunities to support development whilst having fun.

Our next fundraising event will be the Craft Fair on Sunday 10 November. A fabulous event featuring many local crafts. Ideal for some early Christmas shopping. The playgroup run a cake stall and offer light refreshments throughout the day. There will also be a raffle with many prizes. Please contact the telephone number below for further information and look out for the posters advertising the event nearer the time.

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 encouragement between staff and children, partnership with parents, teaching, management and the emphasis on fun.

Children can join us from the age of 2½ and Early Years Entitlement is available in the funding period after their third birthday. We are open during term time with sessions every week-day morning and afternoon sessions on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and optional lunch cover for children who like to bring a packed lunch.

If you are seeking childcare for your 2 year old, East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup accepts children from their 2nd birthday to starting school. For the past few years the staff at East Coker Playgroup also staff East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup, both Playgroups feed into East Coker Primary School. East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup is a smaller group and this can be a great benefit to the younger children.

The opening times are term-time with sessions every week-day morning and an afternoon session on Wednesday and Thursday, with optional lunch cover for children who like to bring a packed lunch. East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup also run an integrated Toddler Session on Thursday mornings from 9.30am to 11.00am for £1 per family. To find out more information, please visit www.eastchinnockunder5spreschool.co.uk

Information about both playgroups can be found on their web sites and/or by contacting Kay Strode on 07798 812540.

The Churches

COKER RIDGE BENEFICE SERVICES

The new Service pattern seems to have come into effect smoothly. It helps, I think, that East Coker's principal Service is now at a fixed start time of 10.45am every Sunday. I have enjoyed the opportunity to meet other members of the Benefice by taking Services on the West side and David Wilson, similarly, is enjoying taking Services in the 3 churches here.

As summer turns to autumn, so a new season lies in store. Harvest Festival at East Coker will be on 7 October at 10.45am, followed by a Harvest Lunch in the East Coker Hall. Harvest gifts will go to two local charities that can make good use of them – the Lord's Larder and Barnabas House. We look forward, too, to East Coker School coming to the church for their Harvest Service on Thursday 4 October.

Remembrance Sunday on 10 November is an important occasion in our annual calendar, a chance for the village to pay its respects to those who made the supreme sacrifice for their country, while also being mindful of those on active service today.

New this year is an Advent Carol Service at East Coker at 6.00pm on Advent Sunday, 1 December, a chance to reflect on what Advent means as a spiritual preparation for Christmas. We shall also have our usual full range of Carol Services and Christmas Services to which we extend a very warm welcome.

The Rev'd Charles Hatton

New Coker Ridge Benefice Service Plan

The service details for October – December 2013 will be found at the end of this Newsletter.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, SUTTON BINGHAM

Sutton Bingham is settling into the new routine of the Coker Ridge Benefice timetable.

We have maintained our two services each month: the First Sunday, Spoken Holy Communion, Prayer Book at 9.15am and the Third Sunday, Holy Communion, Prayer Book, with hymns at 10.45 am.

With the change of timetable, our third Sunday rotates so that Rev'd Charles Hatton is not always available. Rev'd David Woodley from Yeovil has kindly come across to officiate for the last two months with some thought provoking sermons, and Rev'd David Wilson has taken his first service in Sutton Bingham. Harvest Festival was held on 15 September, with a good congregation and a produce-laden church, in seasonally autumnal weather.

We usually stop the 1st Sunday service as we move into the winter, but this year we are keen to carry on normally, as the regular congregation has expressed a preference for this to continue. The weather may dictate if we do have to miss any services, but having built up a good attendance, we would like to persevere with that early service.

In December there will be NO 3rd Sunday service, but the Carol Service will be held on Tuesday 17 December at 6.00pm, as usual.

As we do not have a service on Christmas Day, on Sunday 29 December, the Joint Benefice 5th Sunday Service will be held at Sutton Bingham at 10.45am. This will be a full Candlelit Service and we hope to make it a special occasion, with the Prayer Book Communion and hymns, followed by coffee and biscuits. We look forward to welcoming all seven churches for joint worship.

Because of the earlier service time on the 3rd Sunday, we now have no organist. We have been using taped organ music, kindly supplied by David Wilson, which is better than singing unaccompanied, but **we would desperately like to find someone prepared to play, once a month at 10.45am, or even occasionally. If anyone has a CD player that they or their family no longer need, which would be suitable for playing our recorded hymn tunes – with good sound and volume, (not too big!) we would be happy to buy, or borrow it on a semi-permanent basis.**

Meanwhile, we are also still hoping to find someone willing to share churchwarden duties! Please let David Wilson, Charles Hatton or me know if anyone could spare the time to help out.

Heather Snook (Churchwarden), Darvole Farm. Tel 474138; Mobile 07971550915

BIBLE MID-WEEK MEETINGS – A series in Exodus

Wednesday 16 October 7.00pm – Tom Oaks – The Priority of Love – 1 John 4:7-5:4a

Wednesday 20 November 7.00pm – Edward Armitstead – the Victory of Faith – 1 John 5:4b – 21

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

For further details, please contact Edward Armitstead 862785 or Roy Hodder 862519.

EAST COKER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, BURTON LANE

Weekly Meetings Sunday Services 11.00am. Other services as announced. **All** are welcome to **all** of our services.

Coffee Stop The Hall is open each 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 **Home Groups** on Tuesday evenings for anyone who may be interested in discussing the Christian faith and there is a youth group meeting midweek for those aged between 18 and 30.

Little Wheeler Mother and Toddler Group meeting at the East Coker Hall each Tuesday (during term-time) from 10.30am – 12.00pm

Kevin Chapman is available from Tuesday to Friday. He can be contacted on 07812726853 or 422594, or email ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk. Please do feel free to get in touch if you have any queries about the Christian faith or if you would like someone to pray with you or simply to talk to. Alternatively you may wish to look at our website on www.eastcokerchapel.com

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' The letter to the Romans, Chapter 15 verse 13 (NIVUK).

EAST COKER VILLAGE FETE Once again we had glorious weather for the Fete on the last Saturday in June. Thank you to everyone who supported us whether by organising or participating in a stall for your own interest group or by attending and spending your money. The income from admission fees was down considerably from previous years. There appeared to be just as many present as in previous years so we suspect that many people either didn't go into the Hall or chose to ignore the admission fee. After the various expenses ECCF was left with some £60 which was then divided between a couple of the charities who had supported the event (St John's Ambulance and Crewkerne Lions).

Please make a note in your diaries for **next year's Fete** which is due to take place on **Saturday 5 July 2014**.

Village News

WESTLAKE SURGERY, WEST COKER

Flu Clinics will be held for Westlake Surgery patients on Saturday 5 October 2013 - 9.00am – 11.00am and Saturday 2 October 2013 – 9.00am – 11.00am at Westlake Surgery.

Wherever possible, please can patients walk to the surgery, as car-parking will be limited. It would be preferable to park elsewhere and walk into the surgery grounds.

Please note that vehicles and their contents are left entirely at the owners' risk and Westlake Surgery accepts no responsibility for any accidents or thefts.

WEA EAST COKER BRANCH

Medieval Wessex – 6 Meetings held in the Dampier Room, East Coker Hall, on Tuesday from 2.30pm – 4.00pm. Tutor – Dr John Porter. Cost £31. Enquiries to Sarah Smith 862466

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EAST COKER VILLAGE STORE – CHRISTMAS EVENT

This year we are doing things a little differently. We are holding a Christmas Event on Saturday 9 November 2013 between the hours of 2.30pm and 6.30pm.

As usual we will have lots of tempting treats, Christmas essentials and lovely present ideas for you to buy. However, rather than having to order everything and wait for your goodies, this year there will be lots for you to buy on the day. Some items, especially the very popular ones, will still be available to order so you don't miss out.

Of course Elaine will also be here with her florally creations and gifts.

Also, new for this year, there will be lots of tasty nibbles and drinks for you to try before you buy. Some will be Christmas delights but others will be the special items we stock all year round for your enjoyment.

Furthermore all orders and purchases over £20.00 made on the day will be given a free go in our Christmas draw.

We hope to have a lovely afternoon and see lots of familiar faces and hopefully some new ones, so do pop in anytime between 2.30pm and 6.30pm.

Just a reminder, although most of you will already know our opening times are:

Monday to Saturday – 8.00am until 1.00pm

Sundays – Closed

We would like to thank all our customers for their continued support with the recent changes to the opening times.

Vicky, Elaine and Leigh

SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY

The mobile library route for East Coker is Tuesday, every 4 weeks, from 2.30pm – 2.50pm at the Helyar Arms, and 2.55pm – 3.10pm at Mill Close. Further information from Libraries Direct 0845 3459177 or www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries

1 October

29 October

26 November



EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

SSDC Local Plan

Mr Barrie Hartley, acting on behalf of the Parish Council (PC) gave a presentation to the Planning Inspector. Barrie reported that the inspection of the Local Plan had been suspended for six months. The PC were grateful to Barrie for all of his thousands of hours of investigation and for his involvement at the Inspection.

Scout Hut Lease

Members of East Coker Scout Group attended the July meeting to explain their plans to extend the Scout Hut. Councillors agreed with plans in principle, but that along with a peppercorn rent, sewerage charges should be added and a water meter installed for them to pay for the water they use.

Pavilion

Following the erection of the new sports store at the Pavilion, changes are being considered to give more storage space to the Pre-school.

Phone Box

Efforts are still being made to have the BT phone box removed from East Coker.

Kathryn Sturtridge

The PC is grateful to Kathryn for keeping the area under The Tree planted. She has plans to upgrade the compost in the Autumn.

Village Noticeboard

The PC authorised Councillor Bennett to get estimates for the production of a noticeboard. He has names of local photographers who may be able to help with content for the board.

Dog waste bin – off Nash Lane

A suitable location has been agreed and the Ranger will install a dog waste bin.

Traffic dangers – parking in Yeovil Road

Residents from Tellis Cross put forward their views concerning the white line 'footpath' from that area to the school. They reported that drivers cross the white line, park on the white line and drive too close to pedestrians. Council explained that traffic survey had been carried out and the majority of traffic is within the speed limit. The PC felt that there were separate issues of traffic speed and car parking/congestion.

A meeting with Somerset County Council representatives led to an offer of two solar powered signs for use on approach roads. Further details of their installation will be explored after Council's agreement at the September meeting.

Everyone can help by driving and parking carefully and respectfully within the Parish and especially at school arrival and departure times. The personal safety of everyone needs to be our paramount aim.

Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Wilson represented the PC at the SSDC District Executive on 5 September and spoke on behalf of the adoption of the Parish boundary to be the designated area for the Neighbourhood Plan. After considerable debate, it was agreed. Council has now received formal notification.

We will launch the Neighbourhood Plan at a fun, family event in the East Coker Hall on Saturday 26 October from 11.00am – 3.00pm. There will be free food, free raffle and lots of exciting ways for all parishioners and those with businesses and services in the parish to begin to make their feelings known about how they want the Parish to develop over the coming years. We especially want children and young people to be involved as it will be most important for them.

After the Launch event, **a questionnaire will be delivered to every dwelling in the Parish and we hope you will enjoy completing it. To get the best ideas of what you think, we need you to complete it and return to various places before the middle of November.**

Councillor Kath Wilson on behalf of East Coker Parish Council

THE EAST COKER BULK OIL PURCHASE SCHEME

Fewer of us than usual filled up in July – 47,400 litres between 49 people. The cold weather since 'summer' 2012 meant that many could not wait until July to refill. We paid about 2p per litre less than the lowest quote for 1000 litres. If you haven't filled up for winter, I suggest you do so now, because the price hasn't really started to rise yet. The next order will be the top-up in January.

If you're interested in the scheme please contact me, preferably by email pauleddwards@waitrose.com or 864413. Email makes it much easier and quicker to circulate information and I do not divulge email addresses. I circulate an email reminder before co-ordinating each order.

EAST COKER RAINFALL REPORT

There has been little or nothing of interest to relate in one of the dullest quarters since I started keeping rainfall records back in the 1990's. Admittedly, the summer months do not cause the skies to generate much in the way of rain, but no more than 3½ins (8.9cm) does nothing to keep this period in touch with the annual averages. As I consistently report in this column the average rainfall on East Coker (or at any rate on my house and garden) has averaged a fairly steady 36in (91.4cm) of rain annually. From January to September this year, the total rainfall has been 17¼ins (43.8cm), and the annual average will be maintained only if the fourth quarter, October to December, comes up with another 18ins (45.7cm). That it might do so would point to some pretty dismal weather as the winter develops.

Keep your fingers crossed for the weather, and I hope to tell you at Christmas-time what it has been like.

And now (25/9) it has begun to rain.....

Clive Bingley

SOMERSET ACTIVITY & SPORTS PARTNERSHIP (SASP)

SASP is the County Sports Partnership for Somerset, one of 49 across England established by Sport England to be the strategic lead for sport in the country. SASP is a charitable trust aiming at getting people more active, more often. As part of the drive to encourage more people to be physically active and due to the popularity of Race for Life etc. we are setting up a free weekly 5km run at Montacute House, Yeovil from 21 September. It is part of a national franchise called **parkrun** www.parkrun.org.uk. SASP has found the funding for the timing systems and training and worked with the National Trust to set the route etc.

We are now looking to recruit as many volunteers as possible to help marshal the programme. We hope to recruit around 15 to 20 volunteers, allowing them to volunteer once a month or so rather than every week.

- Register via the parkrun website <http://www.parkrun.com>
- Print your unique barcode reference and bring it with you on the day

If you would like to volunteer or find out more information about parkrun contact Rebecca Squire email rsquire@sasp.co.uk

PENDOMER APPLE DAY!

If you have APPLES or PEARS that you would like to
press for juice or cider,

DO BRING THEM & WE CAN HELP YOU TO
MAKE YOUR OWN JUICE

(bring bottles to put juice in too!)

Or just come & join in the fun:

WATCH OR HELP APPLES BEING 'SCRATTED' & PRESSED TO MAKE JUICE

SATURDAY 12 OCTOBER 10.30am – 4.30pm

BBQ FOOD & TEAS available all day

TREASURE HUNT for children (& young at heart!) & GAMES

CAKES & GARDEN PRODUCE STALL (contributions welcome!)

At Coker Wood Cottage, Pendomer, BA22 9PD (on road between Pendomer & Halstock)

Free entry

Donations for apple pressing, food & produce will go towards the work of Pendomer Church

Further information: info@Pendomer.org.uk or 891328

GALLERY QUIRE CONCERT, PENDOMER

Saturday 12 October at 7.30pm, Pendomer Church

If you have read Thomas Hardy's 'Under the Greenwood Tree', you will be familiar with the antics of the 'Gallery Quire' – the instrumentalists and singers who used to sit up in the west gallery of the church, from which vantage point they accompanied the congregational singing as well as performing elaborate anthems (sometimes to the dismay of the clergy)!

Beaminster Gallery Quire will be performing in costume in Pendomer with a concert of this lovely old music, taken mainly from early 19th century Dorset manuscripts. There will be a Harvest theme and lots of 'infectiously jolly' music which will include some dance tunes and even a few of the old village carols.

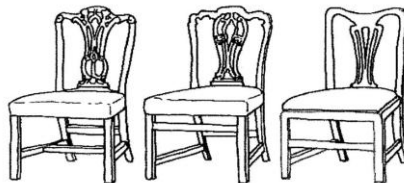
Tickets £10 (to include an interval drink) from PCC members.

Enquiries: info@Pendomer.org.uk or 891328

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **January 2014**. 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 **Thursday 2 January 2014**.

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



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