

East Coker Society Newsletter



October 2015

Free Issue No 160

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East Coker Society News

VISIT TO SOMERSET HERITAGE CENTRE

On 17 September, a group of sixteen East Coker residents visited Somerset Heritage Centre in Taunton. This visit was offered in recognition of the donations which East Coker Society and East Coker Parish Council made to help secure retention of the Helyar and Walker-Heneage archives at the Centre for future public access.

Liz Grant (Archivist) treated us to a fascinating behind-the-scenes tour of this purpose-built facility which was opened in 2010 to house the County's Archives, Local Studies, Museums, Historic Environment and Archaeological and Natural History libraries. At the end of our visit, we were able to examine a selection of maps, documents, drawings, letters and other items from the Helyar and Walker-Heneage archive collections which gave a fascinating insight to the history of East Coker.

You can visit the centre and use the search room to consult these archives as well as other records, such as parish records; local government records; census records for Somerset; estate, manorial and family collections; Quarter Sessions and other court records; photographs; newspapers; books and published works relating to Somerset.

DON'T FORGET THE WINTER FAYRE

Saturday 24 October 2015, 2.00pm – 4.00pm at East Coker Hall

Tables are still available for individuals or organisations. The price is only £2 a foot, for 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12-foot tables. Setting up of tables will be from 1.00pm onwards.

If you wish to reserve a table, please initially contact Sarah Owen, tel 01935 862218. Then complete the form below, and send it with either cash or a cheque made payable to East Coker Society to Paddock Cottage, East Coker, Yeovil, Somerset BA22 9JP. This will ensure your stall is reserved.

WINTER FAYRE SATURDAY 24 October 2015, 2.00pm – 4.00pm – EAST COKER VILLAGE HALL

Name of Organisation.....

Type of Stall.....

Contact Name.....

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

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

Signed.....

VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY – PLEASE USE IT

The Village Events Diary is kept at the Courtyard Café. **Please put forthcoming village events in the Diary to avoid dates clashing.** Thank you.

Village Clubs and Organisations

EAST COKER PLAYERS

As autumn arrives and the evenings draw in, the Players have once again commenced pantomime rehearsals. This year we present for your entertainment 'Cleopatra' the Pantomime, to be performed at the East Coker Hall on Friday 27 November at 7.30pm and on Saturday 28 November at 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

Tickets will be available from Vicky, tel 862711 and members from 1 November. Adults £6 and Children £4. We will be opening our pop-up box office in the Courtyard Café on Tuesday mornings during November from 10.00am to 12 noon. We look forward to seeing you.

We will be holding our AGM on Monday 4 January 2016 in the Dampier Room, East Coker Hall at 7.00pm. All welcome. Ideas for the spring production will be discussed.

If you, or a member of your family, minimum age 8 years, would like to join us or require further information on the above events – contact Anne 862060 or Hazel 429163.

East Coker Players are registered with Somerset Child Safe.

EAST COKER FLOWER SHOW AND WINE FESTIVAL

What a beautiful display of flowers, produce, home craft, crafts and photography. It was a shame that the children classes were down on entries. There was a great selection of wines.

Well done to everyone who entered, the Hall looked amazing.

A **very big thank you** to all who showed and who supported the show. Hopefully see you all next year, newcomers welcome.

Sarah Rashley

ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

A big thank you to all of you who supported our Cream Tea delivery back in July, we delivered just over 800 boxes to homes and businesses in the Yeovil area making a profit of £3,868. We also packed over 3,500 teas in Yeovil for the national delivery earlier in June. There were two other packing stations this year and in total the national figure raised by the Cream Teas is over £60,000. Plans are already under way for next year, with plans for us to pack 8,000 boxes in Yeovil. We cannot believe how this has grown from 100 boxes in total ten years ago!!

Our popular Diva Lunch is being held on Friday 9 October, at Haselbury Mill, further details available from me, Jane Donnelly on 478409 or email jane@donnelly81.fsnet.co.uk

EAST COKER MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

The event in June for the Children's Lifeline (Chernobyl) raised £322, followed by £170 in July for Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, and £231 for Guide Dogs for the Blind in August.

The forthcoming events will be for:

- Cancer Research on 30 October
- Children in Need on 27 November

We now have a full calendar of events for this year but if you, or anyone you know, would like to hold a coffee morning for a charity in 2016, please contact Cherry or Penny.

Please come along to the Forester's Arms and give your continued support to all these deserving causes. Many thanks to all the staff at the Forester's for the support they give to these popular village get-togethers.

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313 Penny Marpole 863055

Thank you

The Coffee Morning, in September, for the Syrian Refugees made £508. Thank you to everybody for donations of money, cakes, raffle prizes, or for just coming along to support.

The money will be sent to Save the Children Charity who are arranging funds to go direct to Syria.

Sandra



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cyclamen.

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TIME TO SHARE

Meetings

Monday 5 October	Talk from NHS on how to plan for the future
Monday 19 October	Healing with Gill Holt
Monday 2 November	Talk on being an Air Hostess by Kath Keen
Monday 16 November	Christmas Bazaar
Monday 30 November	Carol Service with lessons and carols followed by Christmas Tea
Monday 14 December	Christmas Lunch with dancing and music

Time to Share begins again on 18 January 2016. We would love to have some new members. Just come along one Monday afternoon and see what you think. We have a great deal of fun, and always enjoy ourselves – not forgetting the wonderful home-made cakes from East Coker kitchens. Give me a call if you need to know any more.

The Wi-Fi Club in the Courtyard Café on Tuesday mornings goes from strength to strength, but there is room for new members, especially as Sue and Allan make us so welcome. We meet from 10.00am - 12.00pm. You do not have to be clever but willing to learn, and there are usually two or three people who are able to help with tablets or laptops.

The Café has internet, and you can learn to send emails and photographs to your family. It is such a lovely place to spend a Tuesday morning. You can even sneak in a piece of delicious home-made cake if you feel in the mood.

Come and join us. Guaranteed fun and a bit of learning too. Oh! And I forgot. The most delicious coffee in the South West.

Sandra 862162

EAST COKER 400 CLUB

The results of the Coker 400 Club Summer draw:

£100 Mr Terry Kimpton; £50 Ms S Graham; £40 Mrs K Sturtridge; £30 Mr John Carter; £20 Mr Bob Mead; £15 Mrs Vicky Moorhouse; £10 Mrs J Clough.

If anyone would like to join the 400 Club, the annual subs are £20. This is paid, if possible, by quarterly payments of £5 by Bankers Order.

Please contact Mary Ashley 862263, Arthur Rees 862828 or Mike Weston 862472

Thank you, Mike Weston

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER

The Branch will be holding their Annual Coffee Morning in aid of the 2015 Poppy Appeal on Saturday 17 October 2015 at The Commemoration Hall, West Coker, 10.00am – 12noon. Please note the change of venue, from East to West Coker. Entrance £2.50, to include coffee and biscuits. Also RBL, cake, and produce stalls, plus raffle.

Key dates for the Appeal are:

- 24 October – 7 November. House to House/Static collections. Please give generously when our volunteer collectors call.
- 8 November – Remembrance Sunday
- 11 November – Armistice Day

Would you be willing to help in the Poppy Appeal? Supporting our Armed Forces, past and present, and their families, more collectors are needed during the two weeks of the Appeal.

The demand for assistance is increasing - some of our young veterans will need us for the whole of their lives. Please help us to continue to give them that much needed help and support.

NB The Branch AGM will be held in the Dampier Room, East Coker Hall on Thursday 19 November at 7.30pm.

Thank you all for your continued support. David Holland – Chairman 862782 d.holland632@btinternet.com

EAST COKER READING GROUP

We are a group of eight people who meet once a month (usually on a Tuesday evening) to talk about the book we have been reading the previous month – unless the book was not very interesting, in which case we talk about anything that comes to mind! As the Library charge Reading Groups a monthly fee we, in turn, charge a fee of £1.00 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 on the odd occasion when the book hardly gets a mention!

We are currently reading 'To Kill a Mockingbird' by Harper Lee. If you are considering joining the 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


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, minimum age 9 years 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



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EAST COKER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

A good meeting was held on 24 September when Mike Farley, in the costume of King Henry VIII, entertained an Open Evening with the antics of King Hal and his various wives. In October, the meeting will take on a more serious note when members will be told of the problems of, and how to cope with, members of the family who suffer with dementia. Back to a more fun evening in November, members will enjoy a 'Sing along', whilst in December, in place of a normal meeting, we will be visiting Yeovil Golf Club for a Christmas meal.

Meeting on the last Thursday of the month at the East Coker Hall at 7.30pm, new members or those who wish to give the Institute a try are always welcome. As the National W.I. is celebrating its 100th birthday

this year, East Coker is not far behind having been founded in 1918. We are already thinking how we can celebrate our own 100th birthday.

The winter Whist Drives have restarted. Everyone is invited to join this sociable evening on the third Thursday of the month, the next being 15 October at 7.30pm.

Any enquires, please contact secretary Ruby Rollo on 475010

Diary Dates

Thursday 15 October	Whist Drive
Thursday 29 October	Managing Dementia
Thursday 19 November	Whist Drive
Thursday 26 November	Sing Along
Thursday 10 December	Christmas meal
Thursday 17 December	Whist Drive

SAVE EAST COKER

Although a successful result has been achieved in restricting the proposed Keyford development to north of Plackett Lane (apart from the playing fields), we are still faced with the task of challenging details in the proposal which have an adverse impact on the area surrounding the site and on the roads which connect with it.

We also need to watch for new planning proposals that come forward which are not in the SSDC Local Plan, and ensure that they are challenged. This will be made more difficult by the fact that a Planning Inspector has now deemed SSDC does not have a 5-year housing land supply, that is. sufficient houses in the pipeline to cover the next five years. Without a 5-year land supply it becomes more difficult for the Council to resist planning appeals.

The best option for East Coker is to complete the Neighbourhood Plan, as this will provide a legal basis on which to fight future planning applications. All our focus is now on participating in the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, to assist in the completion of the plan within the shortest realistic timescale.

The Save East Coker campaign will continue to scrutinise the Keyford plans over the coming period. Where appropriate, we will retain planning and legal expertise to help argue our case against the impact of the proposed development, so please continue to support us through the fundraising programme.

ECPT contacts

Joe Coles 863146	Martyn Sowerbutts 863313	Richard Vanderpump 864565
Peter Woodford 863633	John Fysh 863963	Sandra Snelling 862162

SAVE EAST COKER FUNDRAISING

Great News! We hope to start paying back some of the loans we had in our efforts to Save East Coker.

As usual, the generosity and kindness of East Coker folk means that the bank balance is looking healthy, and with the **Auction of Promises** on 16 October, we will be in a good position to begin this process.

The last fundraising event for this year, the **Auction of Promises** will be held in the East Coker Hall on 16 October at 7.00pm. It promises to be pretty good, as we already have over 50 confirmed promises, with lots more in the pipeline.

These vary from several holiday homes (see delivered leaflet for details) to cakes, dinners, wine and sailing days, and dozens of other really exciting things.

We even have two big piles of manure, if that takes your fancy, but I think we will leave that in the field for the time being.

Good news! the 'Big Breakfast Brunch' is being planned for February, and the ever popular 'Wandering Supper' later in the year, organised by Di Miskin with her usual amazing skill. Watch this space for dates.

Hope to see you at the Auction.

Sandra 862162

EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

The Wine Circle has recently enjoyed a commercial tasting, and on 7 October we are taking our taste buds around the world - from a local cellar.

You are very welcome to join us! You don't have to be a wine-maker to join in. Bring whatever you enjoy drinking and a glass, like the rest of us, and have a sociable evening out. Check our page on the East Coker Society Website www.eastcoker.com for the full programme for 2015/16.

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at the East Coker Hall, for an 8.00pm start. Join in for any topic which catches your eye.

Dates for your diary

3 October	Quiz—Nic Quiz with DIY Picnic, 7.30pm
7 October	Tasting 'Wines around the World', 8.00pm
4 November	Cookery demo with David - previously at the Forester's, 8.00pm
2 December	Fortified Wines - Palmers of Bridport, with a bread making competition and bread and cheese, 8.00pm.

Note for 2016. Our special open evening with a Tudor theme will take place on Saturday 23 January 2016 at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Any questions, or for more information, talk to Barrie or Anne Hartley 862060.

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BONFIRES

Please consider your neighbours before having a bonfire in the middle of the day during the autumn months. Also, think of the direction of the wind. Later in the afternoon allows enjoying sitting in the sun, washing to be dried, and gardening to be done without having to retreat indoors from bonfire smoke and falling ash.

EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

Members of the Gardening Club have had another varied selection of talks over the past months. In June, we learnt some tips for growing Echinacea and Rudbeckia. July brought a volunteer speaker from the University of Bristol Botanic Gardens, which was followed up the next week by a very fascinating and informative visit to the Gardens. In August, an interesting talk about the 'growing' of a nursery from inception to a successful business. In September, we enjoyed a 'trip' to Iceland, accompanied by superb photography, given by a member - this was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. The last trip of the year was to Wimborne; a stop at Walford Mill allowed members to view the excellent British crafts. This was followed by a conducted tour of the house and gardens at Deans Court, finishing with a cream tea in the beautiful dining room. A very successful last trip for 2015.

The programme for the remainder of the year:

8 October	NGS – a digital visual celebration of the variety and history of gardens – talk by David Moon.
12 November	Annual General Meeting
10 December	Christmas Quiz and social evening

Meetings, trips and the annual holiday are all very well supported. We are always happy to welcome new members and visitors. We are a friendly lot – why not join us for an enjoyable, sociable evening? You do not need to be good at gardening; talks cover a wide variety of subjects. The annual subscription is £12, with subs of £1 per meeting. Visitors £3.

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, commencing at 7.30pm in the East Coker Hall.

For further information, please contact Helen Styles 862447 or Stan Shayler 420291

THE EAST COKER BULK OIL PURCHASE SCHEME – OCTOBER 2015

Goodness knows what's going to happen to the price of heating oil. We paid 29.5ppl for 57,175 litres in 60 drops in July. That was 0.05ppl less than we paid in July 2009. The price of petrol has risen since, but I've just looked on the internet and Darch's online ordering system is offering 29.14ppl for 1000 litres. If you haven't filled up for the winter already, how much longer dare you put it off?

To join in, or with any questions contact me, preferably by email (paulewards@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. The next order will be in the New Year, see the January Newsletter for details.

Paul Edwards



BURTON BOOK CLUB

We are a group of ten people who meet once a month (usually on a Wednesday afternoon) for one hour. We currently meet over coffee/tea at Goose Slade Farm Tea Shop. In addition to the £1 per month fee for books, we also put £2 into a 'kitty' to pay for drinks and, when funds allow, have a 'free' month.

We are currently reading 'Perfect' by Rachel Joyce. Otherwise what is said about the East Coker Reading Group (elsewhere in this Newsletter) holds good for the Burton Book Club and the same contact details apply, Kevin Chapman on 07812726853 or 422594 or email ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk

EAST COKER DISCUSSION GROUP

The Discussion Group has now been running since the beginning of the year. There are currently just four people taking part and we would ideally like to have one or two more. The purpose of the group is to share and explore ideas and beliefs. It is not to provide a platform for members to promote their own ideas and beliefs with the aim of persuading others of them. We hope to explore the political, cultural, moral, religious and practical issues which underpin particular ideas and beliefs, with the aim of equipping ourselves better to understand them.

The Group is about exploring ideas, not debating them in an adversarial way. We intend the atmosphere to be supportive and 'unpressured'. Meetings are expected to last for about an hour, but with the option of continuing for a further half hour should enough members wish.

Would anyone interested in becoming a member of the group please contact John Field on 07890375780 or email jcmfield@hotmail.com We tend to meet towards the end of the month, on a Thursday, commencing at 11.00am (but we are reasonably flexible!).

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Young People

EAST COKER PRIMARY SCHOOL

As late summer turns to autumn, the school is back and in the full flow of the new school year.

The seasons of education run parallel to the real calendar, and our year has its own rhythm. September is an exciting time as our 37 new starters, some only just four years old, join big school for the first time. All the other children have moved up a class and are growing into their new responsibilities, opportunities and expectations. Even as the youngest children are settling in, I am already making appointments for parents of next year's cohort to come and look around.

Quite regularly, I am showing some of our past pupils back around the school they used to attend and are planning for their own children's start. It is great to hear their memories of their own time here, invariably fond and happy memories.

Harvest will soon be celebrated in St Michael's, followed by pumpkins and fireworks before we plan Christmas in earnest. Teachers always have two Christmases, one which starts in early November rehearsing carols and making crowns, and then the real one at home with our own families.

On a personal note, this term is a strange one for me as it will be my last as a teacher. After 35 years of teaching, more than half as a Headteacher, I shall be heading into retirement as the last chorus of 'O Come All Ye Faithful' fades away. There are many things about my job which I shall miss, and a few that I won't, mainly linked to paperwork and figures. It has been a huge privilege to have been at East Coker for the last part of my career and to have played a small part in the ongoing success of the school. The children have been a delight, nearly all the time, and my colleagues on the staff are a joy to work with.

I shall be leaving the school in very good hands; the governors appointed Mrs Jane Hesketh-Williams to be the new Headteacher. Jane is currently the head of Coxley Primary School, and I have no doubt that she will lead East Coker Primary to further success as the seasons continue to roll on.

Richard Powell, Headteacher

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

September starts a new Playgroup year, welcoming returning families and new families into the setting. We have already enjoyed a damp and breezy walk across the recreation ground dressed in wellies and waterproofs! The children found beech masts, lichen, acorns, green leaves and what must be one of the first bright yellow autumn leaves. There was a lot of excitement about catching small raindrops in the open field and then catching large raindrops falling from the leaves.

The Playgroup is reliant on fundraising to provide the resources to facilitate the learning and development that occurs daily within the setting. Our next fundraiser is the annual Craft Fair to be held on Sunday 8 November 2015, 10.30am to 3.30pm. There will be a variety of stalls plus the Playgroup hold a raffle and provide refreshments during the day. Come along and make a start on the Christmas shopping, we look forward to seeing you.

Stalls are still available at the Craft Fair. Please contact Judy (07970 302146) or Kay (07798 812540) or email ecplaygroup@aol.com to book a stall and/or for Craft Fair information.

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.

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 weekday morning, 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 has also worked at East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup, with both playgroups feeding 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 weekday morning, afternoon sessions on Wednesday and Thursday, with daily lunch cover for children who like to bring a packed lunch.

East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup also runs an integrated Toddler Session on Thursday mornings from 9.30am to 11am for £1 per family. To find out more information, please visit www.eastchinnockunder5spreschool.co.uk

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

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

Sam and Eleanor are back from Japan!

"Going to the 23rd World Scout Jamboree was an absolute privilege and the experience was like no other! We met so many new people from all around the world and now have friends that will last a lifetime - and it was all through the amazing network of Scouting! Everyone there enjoyed the same things as everyone else so we met loads of other scouts doing the many incredible activities that were laid on for us. Finally, to top it all off we had a wonderful cultural experience while staying with host families in the city of Beppu. We went to hot springs, nearby Scout troops and beautiful Japanese Castles. Altogether an inspirational

experience. However we would not have got there without everyone's kind donations and help at our fundraising events so we would like to say a huge thank you!"

We started this term with a Group Rounder's and BBQ evening. This is an opportunity for all sections to mix and play together.

The Beavers have an active programme planned, including salt dough modelling, creative and Halloween craft. The Cubs will be backwoods cooking in the woods, visiting the fire station and undertaking the Emergency Aid badge. Scouts will be letterboxing on Dartmoor, hiking and spending evenings each month at Max's Field. Six scouts will also be surviving for a night up the woods with minimal equipment.

We are almost full in all sections, which is both an achievement and a challenge.

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 31 October


Saturday 28 November

Saturday 2 January 2016

Autumn Jumble Sale

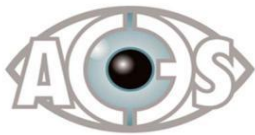
Saturday 17 October, 2.00pm at the East Coker Hall

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The Churches

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

This is my first lone attempt to write for the Newsletter following the retirement of The Rev'd Charles Hatton. The Coker Ridge Benefice said farewell to Charles and Alison on 19 July. It was a happy but also sad occasion at the East Coker Hall. The churches across the Benefice are working hard to find successors to both David Wilson and Charles. We will keep you informed of our progress, and hopefully before too long we will be welcoming our new incumbents.

We have been fortunate to enjoy a range of services since 19 July, with both ordained and lay people leading our worship. I would like to thank everyone who has supported the new and familiar services and those who have led them. Also the support I have received has really been wonderful – so – **Thank you all.**

Our Children's Work Leader, Ellie, continues to work hard to encourage children and their families to take part in church life. The **Church Café** was launched in July and, following a short break, will continue to take place on the second Sunday of each month at 9.30am; we hope to start from 13 December before our Christingle Service – the croissants are delicious! Sunday School takes place on the first Sunday of each month. We have an ever growing band of children so, if you would like to learn more, please let me know and I will tell Ellie.

Services at St Michael's continue each Sunday at 10.45am. Looking ahead to some of these, Harvest Festival will take place on 11 October; gifts of produce are most welcome, particularly tins and dried food. The children will be putting questions to a local farmer – come along for an interesting service, which is followed by the Harvest Lunch in the East Coker Hall – everyone welcome. Tickets will be on sale soon. Please contact me if you would like to join us.

On 1 November, the All Souls Service will be led by Monica, when we remember those we have lost. The following week is Remembrance Sunday; this service begins at 10.45am.

Looking further ahead to Christmas:

- **Sunday 13 December is Christingle** – a lovely family service for all that sets the mood for the Festive Season.
- Carol singing around East Coker will take place around the Village, keep an eye out for date and time.
- **Sunday 20 December is the Service of Carols and Lessons at 6.00pm** – please note there is no morning service that day.
- **Thursday 24 December Mid-night Mass at 11.00pm**
- **Christmas Morning there is a Eucharist at 10.45am**

More details of all the services from now until Christmas are available in the Coker Ridge Benefice monthly newsletter, available on line at www.cokerridge.org.uk Further information about St Michael's, can be found at our website www.eastcokerchurch.org.uk

Please contact me on any matters related to St Michael's and I will do my best to help.

Judith Shaw, Churchwarden tel 863218

SERVICE FOR THOSE WE HAVE LOVED BUT SEE NO LONGER – 1 November at 10.45am

For many years we have held a service to remember those we have loved but see no longer on the Sunday next to All Souls Day. The service was moved from the evening to the morning at the request of a number of the older congregation, and takes place in the context of the morning service. This year, the service will be Morning Prayer, not Holy Communion, but we shall still read out the names of your loved ones, and there will be an opportunity to light a candle if you wish.

This year, we will read out the names of the loved ones of those present as usual but we will add the names of those who cannot come to a second list which will be displayed on the table with the candles, and I will light the Pascal Candle in their memory, without reading out the names. I hope this covers everybody without too long a list of names. Normally, the children come in at the end of the service after Sunday School, and I will be inviting them to light candles if they wish.

If you would like your loved one's name on either list, please add it to the list of names at the back of the Church after 3 October and before 25 October, or telephone Monica, on 862834 or email me m.whipp278@btinternet.com I will be taking the service.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE 13 DECEMBER

Judith has asked me to take the Christingle Service. We will be having Christingles, and the theme of the service will be children, those who are in need in this country, and also children from other lands.

If the children would like to come dressed up as children from other lands that would be fun. If that is difficult, I am sure children in other lands wear football strips, so in fact anything is acceptable.

For more info please telephone me on 862834, Monica.

ALL SAINTS' CLOSWORTH - Nativity at Clossworth 24 December at 4.00pm

The schools have gone back, so it is time to think of Christmas. We shall be holding our usual Nativity Service at Clossworth on Christmas Eve, subject to snow and ice. Please phone me if there is a blizzard, to check the service is still on!

For those who have not been before, I ask the small children to come as angels, shepherds, kings or children from many lands. Hopefully, we shall have a real live baby Jesus, and I will bring my usual bag of instruments for the children to play during the last carol.

The service lasts about half-an-hour and is suitable for all ages and usually fairly informal. It is a good start to Christmas.

The Carol Service is on 13 December at 6.30pm.

Monica 862834

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, SUTTON BINGHAM

Services for Sutton Bingham are taking place as usual:

1st Sunday Holy Communion at 9.15am

3rd Sunday Holy Communion with hymns at 10.45am

December services will be slightly different:

1st Sunday – as usual

No 3rd Sunday service

Candlelit Carol Service will be on Tuesday, 22 December at 6.30pm, followed by Seasonal Refreshments.

On Sunday, 27 December, immediately after Christmas, a **Joint Benefice Service** will be held at Sutton Bingham, as we do not have a Christmas Day Service. This will be at 10.00am, and we look forward to a full church for Communion and Hymns followed by Mince pies.

Back to normal in January 2016.

Heather Snook, Churchwarden, Darvole Farm, 474138, m 07971 550915

SWEET BISCUIT WRAPPERS FOR WEST COKER CHURCH

Most of you will know that East and West Coker Benefice were joined together several years ago. The people of West Coker have problems with their Church roof and one of the congregation has been able to arrange for a firm to BUY sweet biscuit wrappers which can be recycled. I have put a box in the porch of East Coker Church for wrappers, or if it is easier people can put them through my letter box at 2 Mill Close. Please make certain there are no crumbs left as they will attract the mice. A good excuse to eat that extra biscuit at coffee time!!

Monica

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 alternate Tuesday evenings for anyone who may be interested in discussing the Christian faith. We have recently run a 'Christianity Explored' course. If anyone is interested in attending such a course, we would be glad to run another.

Little Wheelers Mother and Toddler Group meeting at the East Coker Hall each Tuesday (during term time) from 10.30am - 12.00pm. £2.50 per family, to include coffee/tea and cake for the adults (with squash

and biscuits for the children). There are also regular Craft activities. Parents and guardians are responsible for their child's welfare.

If you have any queries about the Fellowship or about the Christian faith in general, please have a word with Kevin Chapman. He can be contacted on 07812726853 or 422594 or email ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk

Alternatively you may wish to look at our website on www.eastcokerchapel.com

'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Philippians, Chapter 4 verse 13

Village News

THANK YOU

Can I, through East Coker Newsletter, thank the kind gentleman who stopped to help me up, when I fell by Holly Cottage, when a car raced past and I stepped back onto rough ground to avoid it and fell and was unable to get up. All I know his name was Nigel, and he was taking his mother-in-law, Doris, to the café. Not only did he help me up but offered to drive me home, which I did not need, but he asked one of the staff in the café to check I was OK on her way home. Thanks to the good Samaritans.

Monica

**SECURE DRY STORAGE REQUIRED
TO RENT FOR A 7ft WIDE VINTAGE VEHICLE
Please Phone Geoff on 01935 421772**

GOOSE SLADE FARM SHOP

Goosey Fayre

A **big thank you** to all who supported Goosey Fayre on Saturday 29 September, making it a great success! We were very blessed to have fantastic weather, which ensured the children could enjoy the inflatables, swing-boats and roundabout, whilst parents enjoyed the band, bar and bbq!

The animal corner was as popular as ever, and the stars of the day were our piglets, born only a few days earlier. With your help, the money raised so far is £865 for St Margaret's Hospice, grand total to be announced soon (please check our website). Of course, we couldn't have managed this without all our many volunteers running the fundraising stalls.

Goose and Meat order books are now open for Christmas. Opening times are Tuesday – Saturday 10.00am – 6.00pm.

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for updates, and offers in the shop and Tea Shop.

We look forward to serving you soon, tel 863735 www.thegoosefarm.co.uk

FOUND!

We have found a rather nice walking stick lying in the road in East Coker. Judging by the wear round the handle, we would guess that it is a well-loved and used item that the owner would appreciate finding.

We can be contacted on 01935 863242 West Coker, and if the owner would like to describe the stick to us we would be delighted to arrange its return.

Martyn & Christine Davies

EAST COKER VILLAGE FETE – REPORT 2015

Thank you to everyone who attended the Village Fete on 4 July. The numbers attending were a little down on last year but, bearing in mind that it was one of the few sun-kissed Saturdays throughout the Summer, who can blame people for going off to the coast to make the most of the fine weather?

Due to the generosity of those attending, many charities and causes benefitted and we are aware that Action Medical Research raised in excess of £400 from the sale of their refreshments, and that ECPT, St Michael's, Scouts, British Legion and others were well pleased with their day.

For our part, we at East Coker Christian Fellowship do not organise the Fete for the purpose of making money, we see organising the Fete as a service to the community. However, after taking into account all of the expenditure involved in booking Bugfest (who were highly entertaining), the Bouncy Castle, the Birds of Prey (who unfortunately were unable to fly due to the wind), the Organ Grinder, hiring the East Coker Hall etc, we had an excess of income over expenditure of £351.66. As our prime aim is not to make money, we divided these monies between St Margaret's Hospice, Canine Partners, St John's Ambulance and Crewkerne Lions.

Many of those attending with attractions do not make any charge, and we are particularly grateful to Steve Roles and Thomas the Tank Engine, as well as Derek Marpole, who organises the Classic Cars each year, and Cecil Turner for use of his Tannoy equipment.

A lot of hard work was put in by many volunteers, and a special 'thank you' to all of those who helped out in the Children's Tent, at the road crossing, hauling tables and chairs and the like.

Next year, the first Saturday is on 2 July, and we are planning to repeat the exercise once again!

Anyone looking to secure a pitch for next year can contact Kevin Chapman, Pastor, on 07812726853 or email ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk or, if you want to know a little more about us, visit our website at www.eastcokerchapel.com

Once again, thank you for your support.

Kevin Chapman, Pastor, East Coker Christian Fellowship



ST. MARGARET'S HOSPICE PLANT SALE

Our plant sale in May raised £650 for the hospice. Thank you to everyone who attended. I hope the winners were pleased with their raffle prizes.

I am getting ready for next year, and would appreciate any pots/modular trays. Please just leave them round the side of the house or on the drive, they will be much appreciated.

See you next year. Christine Seymour

NEWS FROM COURTYARD CAFÉ

Your café gets busier by the week. Last Tuesday, every seat was taken to the disappointment of two visitors, so to be sure of lunch do give us a call on 863821.

The start of the school year brings the annual migration of new Mums, so we have started 'Coffee Hour' from 9:00am to 10:00am where any coffee, any size, shots if you like, are all £2.00! Also by popular request, we are making skinny lattes and cappuccinos.

A new menu item is a baguette fresh out of the oven with a bacon and/or sausage filling. Drop in and try one!

Dates for the diary

1st Saturday of the month is Crafty Day

16 December – Short Mat Bowls Christmas Lunch

Allan



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

A very big 'thank you' to everyone who saves their used stamps. Please save the stamps from your Christmas cards and letters for this worthy cause as they are reused to make money for this charity, which funds vital research into childhood cancers.

The Courtyard Café will now accept them, as the village shop is closed.

EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

East Coker Parish Council has had a busy summer preparing the Parish in readiness for the winter, by clearing drains and cutting back hedging.

The Pavilion has had the woodwork repaired and repainted, along with installing guttering to prevent further damage. Outside sockets have also been installed. The Pre School have gained a water butt to help with their planned children's garden.

The cast-iron sign at the Saw Mills will be renewed, and all other finger post signs will be repainted shortly.

The Millennium Stone has been cleaned and replanted, with the help of Kathryn Sturtridge.

Good news about the Neighbourhood Plan. It is well on its way to completion, and don't forget the questionnaire should be returned by **17 October** for entry into the prize draw. We hope you will enjoy the Open Day on 10 October from 11.00am – 3.00pm. Another similar event will be held in the New Year.

On 9 December, the Christmas tree lights at The Paddock will be switched on at 8.30pm. On Christmas Eve, there will be carol singing around the tree at 6.00pm, with refreshments to follow.

We now have a full council with the co-option of Barrie Hartley and Steve Musgrove. Contact details are on the website, www.eastcokerparish.com

If you have any issues around the Parish, please contact the Clerk on 864354 or email clerk@eastcokerparish.com

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Or Email: CCMELECTRICS@TISCALI.CO.UK
Mayfair Cottage, 5 Long Furlong Lane, East Coker, BA22 9LQ

*Building Regulations Part P Compliant*

SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY

The Mobile Library will no longer call anywhere in East Coker. The reason that the village got the chop was that, technically, we are within three miles of the Library in town, as the crow flies! The Mobile Library stops at Bower Farm, Sutton Bingham every fourth Tuesday.

Further information from Libraries Direct 08453459177 or www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries

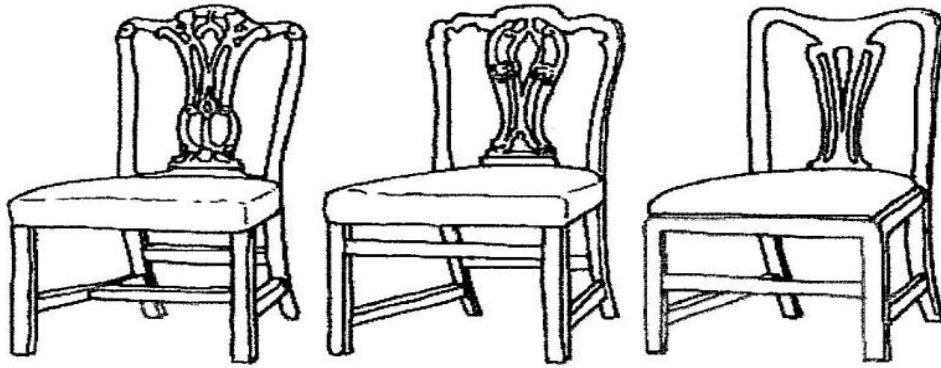
HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING & REFUSE COLLECTIONS Christmas and New Year 2015-16

Usual collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 21 December 2015 to Thursday 24 December 2015	No change
Wednesday 30 December 2015	Thursday 31 December 2015
Wednesday 6 January 2016	Thursday 7 January 2016

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **January 2016**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or e-mail l.lindsay@eastcoker.com, by Monday 4 January 2016.

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



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Sat 3 Oct	Wine Circle – Quiz-Nic	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 5 Oct	Time To Share – NHS	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 7 Oct	Wine Circle – Tasting	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 8 Oct	Gardening Club – NGS	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 9 Oct	Action Medical Research – Diva Lunch		Haselbury Mill
Sat 10 Oct	Parish Council – Open Day	11.00am – 3.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 15 Oct	W.I. – Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 16 Oct	Save East Coker – Auction of Promises	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 17 Oct	Scouts – Jumble Sale	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 17 Oct	RBL – Coffee Morning	10.00am – 12.00pm	West Coker Hall
Sat 17 Oct	The Parish Council – Questionnaire to	be returned	
Mon 19 Oct	Time To Share – Healing	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 24 Oct	ECS – Winter Fayre	2.00pm – 4.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 29 Oct	W.I. – Meeting	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 30 Oct	Coffee Morning – Cancer Research	10.00am – 12.00pm	The Forester's
Sat 31 Oct	Scouts – Waste Paper	8.30am – 10.30am	Near the School
Mon 2 Nov	Time To Share – Talk	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 4 Nov	Wine Circle – Cookery	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 8 Nov	Playschool – Craft Fair	10.30am – 3.30pm	The Pavilion
Thurs 12 Nov	Gardening Club – AGM	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 16 Nov	Time To Share – Christmas Bazaar	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 19 Nov	W.I. – Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 19 Nov	RBL – AGM	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 26 Nov	W.I. – Sing-along	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 27 Nov	Coffee Morning – Children in Need	10.00am – 12.00pm	The Forester's
Fri 27 Nov	The Players – Pantomime 'Cleopatra'	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 28 Nov	The Payers – Pantomime 'Cleopatra'	2.30pm & 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 28 Nov	Scouts – Waste Paper	8.30am – 10.30am	Near the School
Mon 30 Nov	Time To Share – Carols and Tea	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 2 Dec	Wine Circle – Palmer's of Bridport	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 10 Dec	W.I. – Christmas Meal	7.30pm	Yeovil Golf Club
Thurs 10 Dec	Gardening Club – Xmas Quiz & Social	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 13 Dec	Christingle	10.45am	St Michael's Church
Sun 13 Dec	Carol Service	6.30pm	All Saints' Closworth
Mon 14 Dec	Time To Share – Christmas Lunch		East Coker Hall
Thurs 17 Dec	W.I. – Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 20 Dec	Carol and Lessons	6.00pm	St Michael's Church
Tues 22 Dec	Candlelit Carols – All Saints'	6.30pm	Sutton Bingham
Thurs 24 Dec	Nativity	4.00pm	All Saints' Closworth
2016			
Sat 2 Jan	Scouts – Waste Paper	8.30am – 10.30am	Near the School
Mon 4 Jan	The Players – AGM	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 4 Jan	Copy for January Newsletter		

EAST COKER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE OCTOBER 2015

There was a Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire completed in 2013, which provided useful results. Due to focus on South Somerset Local Plan issues over the past 2 years, the Neighbourhood Plan was put in hold, but it is now being actively progressed again. This questionnaire will therefore provide the Neighbourhood Plan Group with an update of local people's views.

Please spend 5 minutes answering a few questions to make sure you have your say on the future of the Parish and come to the Plan Open Day in the Village Hall on 10 October 2015.

- 1 For each of the following aspects related to living in East Coker Parish, please tick the box which you think best describes the current provision:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Inadequate
Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Opportunities					
Leisure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shopping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please add any further
comments

- 2 Which of the following local facilities do you use? Please tick as many as apply.

Social ☐ Sports ☐ Café ☐ School ☐ Other ☐

What additional facilities would you like to see?

- 3 Which of the following applies to you (tick more than one if applicable):

I Parish ☐ live in I work in Parish ☐

If you work in the Parish but do not live here, please still complete.

I use Parish's leisure facilities ☐ I am active in a local community group ☐

- 4 In your opinion, how strong is the sense of community in the Parish

Very strong ☐ Quite strong ☐ Average ☐ Not very strong ☐
Weak ☐

- 5 How do you rate the general quality of the environment in the Parish

Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Average ☐ Poor ☐ Very Poor ☐

- 6 Is there anything you think is particularly good or bad about the physical environment in the Parish and which aspects do you think need improving. What projects or actions would you like to see taken forward in the future and referred to in the Neighbourhood Plan?

7 How do you get about for work, leisure, shopping? Do you travel mainly

By car ☐ By bus ☐ On foot ☐ By motor bike ☐ By bicycle ☐

If you have a car, how many are there in your household? How many trips, on average, does your household make per day in total? A journey out and back from home counts as two trips.

8 If you take children to school, what options would you support to ease congestion?

9 What do you think of the job opportunities within the Parish? Are they:

Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Average ☐ Poor ☐ Very Poor ☐

Would you like to see more business space developed and jobs created within the Parish?

10 Do you work from home? Yes ☐ No ☐

If so what type of business are you in.

Are you satisfied with broadband and mobile phone coverage where you live?

11 Would you support the development of small scale affordable housing schemes in the villages?

12 What do you think should be the main priority of the Neighbourhood Plan?

13 Age Range - 0 – 20 20 – 40 40 – 60 60 plus

Please provide your contact details so we can keep you informed of future stages of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Name

Address

Email

Telephone:

When you have completed this questionnaire, please returnit: By post or hand to Sandra Snelling 9 Long Furlong Lane, East Coker BA22 9LQ or **Bring along to our Open Day in East Coker Village Hall on Saturday 10 October between 11.00a.m and 3.00p.m.** Alternatively **Bring to Auction of Promises Event at Village Hall on 16 October 7.30p.m** or complete it on the Parish Council Website <http://www.eastcokerparish.com> and email it back to Sandra.snelling@googlemail.com

To make sure your comments are taken into account, please return your completed questionnaire by 16 October 2015 for a chance to win a Bottle of Champagne and/or a £20 amazon voucher. Your completed form will be put into a prize draw and the first two taken from the box at **The Auction of Promises Event in the Village Hall on Friday 16 will win a prize**