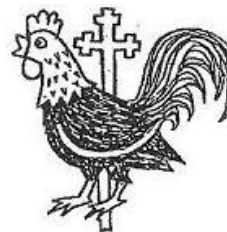


# East Coker Society Newsletter



October 2018

Free Issue No 172

Chair: John Sugg:	863435	
Secretary: Sarah Owen:	862218	
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## East Coker Society News

### SAVE THE DATE - EAST COKER SOCIETY'S ANNUAL WINTER FAYRE

**Saturday 27 October 2018, 2.00pm – 4.00pm at East Coker Hall**

After a record-breaking summer, don't let the shorter days and more inclement weather deter you from getting out and enjoying the activities which East Coker has to offer, as this Newsletter serves to promote.

This includes East Coker Society's Annual Winter Fayre, where you are guaranteed to find unusual and affordable items, especially with Christmas presents in mind. Your attendance will also serve to support the organisation which provides your quarterly Newsletter as well as other well deserving clubs and charities.

There will be a wide selection of stalls, including Christmas cards, diaries, calendars, decorations, candles, textiles, knitwear, wooden products, books, paintings, home-baked cakes, savouries, preserves, garden plants, cushions, crafts, pottery, jewellery, home furnishings, children's toys and books, bric-a-brac and many more items.

Please bring your family and friends. The entrance fee is £2.50 and includes tea/coffee and a mince pie. Children under 14 are admitted free of charge.

There are still a few spaces available for stall holders. Please contact Sarah Owen on 01935 862218.

## Village Clubs and Organisations

### THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH

We had a very successful coffee morning at the Forester's Arms in July; a total of £481.50 was raised for branch funds, which will be used in our continued support of Service families, veterans and their dependants in Somerset.

The 2017 Poppy Appeal is now drawing to a close. Our final figure is £8,578.54, a record. The RBL overall total is over £46m. A big thank-you to all our collectors, schools and businesses, and to you, who gave so generously.

We are now preparing for our 2018 Appeal which will commence on 27 October to 10 November. As you know, the supermarkets get their poppies a little earlier. Please wait until our collector calls. It's a bit disheartening when one walks up a long drive to be told "I got mine from the shop". As we commemorate the 100 years since the end of WW1, let's make the 2018 Appeal rather special.

To commemorate the occasion, Branch and Parish Councils are putting displays together in churches and around the villages.

Keep an eye out as you walk or drive along. There will also be some extra people in church - "There But Not There".

We will not forget those who gave so much for us to live in a better world.

Please see village notice boards and newsletters for service times in other churches. Help us to value the freedom won for us. Help us to use it wisely, gratefully and pass it on to generations to come, as a legacy of peace and hope.

### Dates for diaries

- **Saturday 13 October** at 10.00am in the West Coker Commemoration Hall. The East/West Coker Branch of the Royal British Legion will be holding their Coffee Morning. Entry is £3, to include coffee and biscuits. As usual, it's a great social event with excellent food, top notch raffle prizes and an opportunity to meet and chat with friends.
- **Sunday 11 November** at 10.45am - Remembrance Service at St Michael's. Please try and be there as we remember what happened 100 years ago.
- **Tuesday 27 November** - AGM 7.30pm Dampier Room, East Coker Hall.

Thank-you all for your continued support.

Chairman, David Holland 862782 [d.holland632@btinternet.com](mailto:d.holland632@btinternet.com)

### EAST COKER BOWLS CLUB

The Bowls Club meets every Tuesday evening, 7.30pm - 9.30pm, and Friday afternoons 2.30pm - 4.30pm in East Coker Hall. We are a friendly club and are looking for 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?

For more information, check out our website [www.eastcokershortmatbowlsclub.btck.co.uk](http://www.eastcokershortmatbowlsclub.btck.co.uk) or telephone our Club Captain, George Dudden on 01935 864222.

D Farrant, Club Chairman

### TIME TO SHARE

All events are at East Coker Hall unless otherwise specified. All are welcome, 2.30pm every other Monday.

#### Programme

##### October

- Monday 15 – Birds of Prey with Sharandy
- Monday 29 – Silver Chix

##### November

- Monday 12 – Wood Turning and WW1 Poppy Celebrations
- Monday 26 – Alpaca

##### December

- Monday 10 – Carol Service – Dampier Room, East Coker Hall
- Monday 17 – Christmas lunch – Village Café at 12.30pm

We would really like to thank Barbara Cloke and all her lovely drivers who pick so many members up from all over the village and even into Yeovil. We are very, very grateful to you all. Also, to our wonderful cake makers! My goodness, we have had some yummy ones recently, and a few eyes popping at the sight of them. We do have a lot of fun and a lot of laughs and always welcome visitors for a chat and a cup of tea, even if you don't want to join.

We had someone recently who thought she was coming to something else, stayed the afternoon, and is now a member! Fantastic!

Best wishes, Sandra Snelling 862162

### 12 November 2018

This is the day after Remembrance Sunday and we hope to decorate the East Coker Hall with lots and lots of knitted poppies to celebrate this momentous occasion - 100 years since the end of World War 1. Time to Share members are all knitting like mad, but we need some help please. If you can knit and would like to join in, please contact Barb Nichol on 864099

## Pattern for Large Poppy

**Double knitting wool and number 8 needles** - use red wool

Cast on 10 stitches

Knit 2 rows

Next row increase in first stitch, knit to last 2 stitches, increase in next then knit1. Repeat for next 5 rows.

Knit next 8 rows

**\*\* NEXT ROW** Knit 2 together twice. Knit to last 4 stitches, knit 2 together twice.

Repeat for next row.

Knit next 6 rows

Next 2 rows as **\*\***

Cast Off

Repeat to make 5 petals

**Centre** In black wool

Cast on 32 stitches

Knit 1 row

Cast off.

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## EAST COKER PLAYERS

The Players are busy rehearsing after our summer break. Our next production is our Pantomime 'Calamity Dame'. Performance dates Friday 30 November 2018 at 7.30pm and Saturday 1 December 2018 at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, at East Coker Hall

Tickets - Adults £6; Children £4 available from Vicky 862711 after 4 November 2018.

Come along and see what is happening in the Wild West town of Big Gulp.

We are still looking for someone to produce our Spring production and next year's Pantomime. Without a producer, Calamity Dame could be East Coker's last Pantomime. Anyone willing to give it a try would be fully supported by the knowledgeable production committee.

Our AGM will be held on Monday 7 January 2019 at 7.00pm in the Dampier Room, East Coker Hall. All welcome.

For further information, contact Anne 862060 or Hazel 429163

## EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

East Coker Wine Circle holds meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 8.00pm at East Coker Hall.

### Programme details

Wednesday 7 November	Godminster tasting – Cheese, Pickle and Alcohol
Wednesday 5 December	Bread and Mince Pies – competition

Looking forward to seeing you all, Brian Jennings

## EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

Well – at last a proper summer. We could, of course, all have complained about watering, how poor the beans would be and how there would be nothing to put into the Flower Show – but as always, gardeners somehow managed to cope with whatever the weather decides to throw at them. We watered, we had beans and flowers for the Show, and we got hot and suntanned. A summer to remember – hopefully 2019 will bring a good summer too.

The July event in a members' garden was a huge success; excellent weather, good food, good company and good music. Sadly, the miserable Trugger (Carl Sadler) failed to arrive for the August meeting so we shall never know whether or not he lives up to his name, nor get the opportunity to find out more about trug making. In September, Judith Stewart gave an interesting talk on Bach remedies.

The day trip to Longstock Park Nursery, followed by Heale gardens, was extremely well attended.

As we head towards the end of 2018, the programme is as follows:

**11 October**     **Brimsmore Gardens – Talk followed by discount shopping evening, 6.30pm at Brimsmore Garden Centre, Yeovil**  
**8 November**   **AGM – The Quicksilver Mail**  
**13 December**   **Festive Evening featuring JJR**

Arrangements for the April 2019 Annual Holiday, based near Newbury, have been made. Bookings taken so far mean that the trip is nearly full.

The small committee does an excellent job of planning the programme, making every effort to ensure that the majority of members are able to benefit from most of the talks, events and trips.

Meetings, day trips and the annual holiday are all very well supported. New members and visitors are always welcome. 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 £15, 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, Halves Lane, East Coker.

For further information, please contact Helen Styles 01935 862447 or Stan Shayler 01935 420291

## EAST COKER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Meeting on the last Thursday of each month at East Coker Hall, the Institute continues to welcome new members. We were highly entertained in July by two Somerset WI members recounting their experience when they applied to take part in the BBC programme 'Bargain Hunt', and in August we learned of the vital support that the charity 'Shelter Boxes' gave to those in disaster areas.

Our October evening will welcome a member of the Fire Service who will be giving advice on home safety. In November, another important issue for everyone will be on the importance of avoiding scams. With a break in December for us to celebrate Christmas with a meal and social time, we welcome the ever popular Bonny Sartin in January with tales 'From Corscombe to New Zealand'.

The Fun and Games afternoon each month is increasing in popularity, when anyone over the age of 50 is invited to join in with various activities aimed at keeping both the mind and body healthy in a fun way, combined with a social time.



Also, the Whist Evenings (open to all) held on the third Thursday of the month have resumed after the summer break. These are held in the Dampier Room of East Coker Hall at 7.30pm. Cost of just £3 includes refreshments, and many prizes to be won.

Anyone wishing further information, please contact secretary, Ruby Rollo tel. 01935 475010.

#### Diary Dates

Monday 8 October	Fun and Games	East Coker Hall	2.00pm
Thursday 18 October	Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Thursday 25 October	Home Safety	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Monday 5 November	Fun and Games	East Coker Hall	2.00pm
Thursday 15 November	Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Thursday 29 November	Avoiding Scams	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Monday 3 December	Fun and Games	East Coker Hall	2.00pm
Thursday 20 December	Whist Drive	East Coker Hall	7.30pm
Monday 14 January	Fun and Games	East Coker Hall	2.00pm

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#### EAST COKER MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

We continue to hold our Charity Coffee Mornings, and are grateful to the Forester's for their continued support. Also a big 'thank-you' to all our 'regulars' who support us whatever the Charity!

Successful events were held in June, July and August for Motor Neurone Disease, Royal British Legion and Cystic Fibrosis respectively.

#### Forthcoming events will be:

- Friday 26 October – Children in Need

There are no Coffee Mornings in November and December.

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313 Penny Marpole 863055

## FILMFLIX – Films at East Coker Hall



Film nights recommenced at the end of September, with ***Finding your Feet***, which, judging by the laughter, everyone enjoyed. Film Night is usually the last Wednesday of each month. Please try to support the film nights which are put on for the benefit of the community. A lot of effort is put in by a few people and we need to at least break even for each screening.

### Films for the next two months are:

**Wednesday 31 October – *The Post*** – Steven Spielberg directs Meryl Streep and Tom Hanks in '*The Post*', a thrilling drama about the unlikely partnership between The Washington Post's Katharine Graham (Streep), the first female publisher of a major American newspaper, and editor Ben Bradlee (Hanks), as they race to catch up with The New York Times to expose a massive cover-up of government secrets that spanned three decades and four U.S. Presidents. The two must overcome their differences as they risk their careers - and their very freedom - to help bring long-buried truths to light.

**Wednesday 21 November – *Darkest Hour*** – During the early days of World War II, with the fall of France imminent, Britain faces its darkest hour as the threat of invasion looms. As the seemingly unstoppable Nazi forces advance, and with the Allied army cornered on the beaches of Dunkirk, the fate of Western Europe hangs on the leadership of the newly-appointed British Prime Minister Winston Churchill (Gary Oldman). While manoeuvring his political rivals, he must confront the ultimate choice: negotiate with Hitler and save the British people at a terrible cost or rally the nation and fight on against incredible odds.

Directed by Joe Wright, '*Darkest Hour*' is the dramatic and inspiring story of four weeks in 1940 during which Churchill's courage to lead changed the course of world history.

Cast - Gary Oldman, Kristin Scott Thomas, Ben Mendlesohn, Ronald Pickup.

Showings commence at 7.30pm. Doors open .7pm. Entry £6 per person.

For further details, contact 01935 863002 or 01935 862447



## THE EAST COKER BULK OIL PURCHASE SCHEME

Welcome to several new participants who have recently moved into the village. In July, 66 of us filled our tanks with 68,000 litres of heating oil. The price was 46.90 pence per litre (+ VAT), that's 3.30ppl less than the highest price I was quoted for 1,000 litres and about 0.45ppl less than the best. I've looked at today's prices and they're 1ppl or 2ppl higher than they were in July. I've given up trying to understand how and why they move and just accept the current values because they are what we're stuck with.

The next order will be a top-up in January/February, when prices should have settled down after the Christmas peak.

To participate, or with any questions, contact me, preferably by email [pauleddwards@waitrose.com](mailto:pauleddwards@waitrose.com), or 01935 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 in January/February and July/August.

Paul Edwards

## BURTON BOOK CLUB

We are a small, friendly, group who meet once a month on a Wednesday afternoon at Goose Slade Farm Tea Shop at 2.00pm. We pay £1.00 per month for books, which we get from the library and £2.00 into a kitty for drinks, and when funds allow we have a free month.

A lively discussion takes place on the merits or otherwise of the current book, and we mark them out of ten on content and enjoyment.

If you would like to know more, please contact Penny Marpole on [penny.marpole@btinternet.com](mailto:penny.marpole@btinternet.com)



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### **EAST COKER CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

Delighted to say the Christmas Lunch will happen again this year on Sunday 9 December in East Coker Hall.

It will follow the normal format of 12 noon and 1.30pm sittings, and the price of £10 remains the same.

Do book your table early, by contacting Mary Ashley on 862263 to avoid disappointment.

We are so fortunate this year, having Kieta and Steve from the Village Café manning the cooking of the vegetables etc in the kitchen, and their son Louis will be helping as a waiter, like so many others, a family affair.

We look forward to seeing familiar faces along with new recruits to enjoy this special village occasion.

Will see you there! Di Miskin.

### **EAST COKER FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW**

The Flower and Produce Show was held at the East Coker Hall, Halves Lane, East Coker on Saturday 18 August. Yet again, in spite of the hot, dry summer (yes, we had a summer this year!) entries in the classes, although down on 2017, were excellent at a total of just under 500.



It was nice to have more children enter the Show this year and to see their fantastic, imaginative entries, which were of a very high standard. We look forward to seeing them again next year and hope that they will have inspired other children to enter.





The WI celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, and the East Coker branch put on an excellent display in the Dampier Room.

Jackie and her assistants kept visitors and helpers supplied with refreshments – we lost count of the number of large cakes (all homemade) consumed – I think it was 11, which, at 10 slices per cake, shows how much they were appreciated.

'Thank you' to those of you who entered the Show, making the Hall look superb with the flowers, fruit and vegetables, delicious looking cakes, bread and other culinary delights, beautiful craftwork, floral art and photos. Thank you also to those of you who came to view and support the Show. Your support will ensure it continues for the enjoyment of the community. You might be interested to know that the cost of putting on the Show is around £800 each year.

### Cup Winners 2018



Maudsley Silver Challenge Cup (most points in show)  
Archie Neville Memorial Cup (most points in fruit and veg section)  
League of Friends Cup (most points in flower section)  
Ralph Eacott Plaque (best vase of dahlias)  
Pittard Rose Cup for 5 roses  
Mrs Newman Cup for Gladioli  
Jane Harvey Pot Plant Salver  
Don White Challenge Cup (best fuchsia in show)  
Molly Kettlewell Herb Cup  
Miss Keefe Cup (most points in Floral Art)  
Drake Memorial Cup (most points in Homecraft)  
Eileen Doye Memorial Cup (best jam)  
Christine Mead Cup for best Craft  
Society Photographic trophy  
Mrs Wilcox Novice Art Posy Bowl  
John Whittcock Memorial Challenge Cup (Judge's favourite)  
East Coker Garden Club Cup (for children under 5)  
Gloria Mead Cup (6-10 years)  
Miss E B Drake Challenge Cup (11-15 years)  
Olive Sharman Photographic Award  
Doreen Bates Challenge Cup

Anne Cameron  
Anne Cameron  
Linda Mayne  
Mollie Hoskinson  
Linda Mayne  
Yvonne Shayler  
Leon Harwood  
Ruth and John Hann  
Jackie Glover  
Christine Mead  
Jackie Glover  
Sarah Rashley  
Sue Richards  
David Pryor  
Angela Griffin  
David Pryor  
Kara White  
Charlie Pennock  
Isaac Wolney  
Oscar Ashley  
Beavers



**Doreen Bates Challenge Cup - Children's Group Entries - Decorated Wooden Spoons**

We should not forget the committee members and volunteers, who help to set up, assist new entrants, steward, cook, clear up, count points, prepare and man the raffle, the tombola and the WI tables, prepare and serve the refreshments, and the many other tasks involved in putting on the Flower Show. They work long and hard to ensure the success of the Show - to all of you a huge 'thank you' for giving so much of your time.

Work has already begun on the schedule for next year – check in the next issue of the East Coker Society Newsletter for more information.

We look forward to welcoming you again in August 2019.

*(Photos courtesy of A Beardsley)*





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## **EAST COKER POETRY GROUP**

### **Tuesday, 30 October 2018 - 7.30pm at the Helyar Arms – Competition Evening**

The theme this year is 'Colours'. These competition evenings always bring surprising and varied poetry and are great fun. All the poems will be inspired by a colour and can take whatever form or interpretation you wish.

Our judge this year is Dorset artist **Jenny Cuthbert**.

Do put in an entry if you can – but you need to have a 'colour', picked out at one of our meetings. If you cannot attend, then email me for a random artist's colour – you will get the next on the list!

**The deadline for entries is 1 October.**

### **Tuesday 27 November 2018, 7.30pm at the Helyar Arms – Different – Approaches to Women Poets.**

2018 marks the 100-year anniversary of the Representation of the People Act, which first gave women the right to vote.

Chris Salberg and Margaret Hamilton have put together this evening on the theme of women's poetry.

Our meetings are held at the Helyar Arms, East Coker, and normally start at 7.30pm on the last Tuesday of the month.

For more information about the East Coker Poetry Group, contact David Cloke, Group Co-ordinator, 862623 email [info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk](mailto:info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk). Please check our website for the most up to date details of any meeting [www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk](http://www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk).

David Cloke

## Young People

### EAST COKER SCOUTS

Another term has started and our sections are back and fully engrossed in their activity programmes. The Beavers have already been out to Pendomer Woods for fires and shelters and have been cooking chocolate and krispies at the hut. Making bird feeders, learning about accidents and injuries and a scavenger hunt will take them to half term.

The Cubs started back with a games night, and have renewed their own code of conduct. Having made lamp stands for Diwali from air drying clay, they will learn about and taste food associated with the festival. We are extremely pleased that three parents have come forward to help us run the Cubs – they are currently supporting Glen whilst getting to know more about the section.

The Scouts spent an evening at Max's Field where they lit fires to cook sausages and marshmallow & chocolate drop cones, as well as playing fox and hounds. Letterboxing on Dartmoor, a survival weekend at Lufton and a District Day Hike are planned during the next two months.



Four of our scouts (Bethan, Clare, Toby and Ruby) have been selected to be part of the 27 strong Somerset Unit at the **World Scout Jamboree** in West Virginia, USA in July 2019. They will be part of the UK contingent with 45,000 scouts from around the world. They have now had four weekend training camps, and are being sorted into patrols for working in when at the Jamboree. Ruby has been on a media training day too. Dates for the event are slowly coming out; the actual jamboree camp will start on Monday 22 July until Friday 2 August. They are awaiting confirmation of their home hospitality event (the contingent would like it to be in Canada) and a city experience (they have asked for New York).

In order to attend the World Scout Jamboree, they each need to raise £3,995 to cover the cost and also to help scouts attend from other less wealthy countries. The fund-raising is going well - many thanks to those village clubs and individuals who have made donations and/or attended events. Your support is invaluable.

Our next main fund-raising event will be the Bonus Village Quiz on Saturday 10 November – please see the advertisement below. Question rounds will include some American themes along with usual general knowledge. All previous Village Quiz veterans have been invited and we are happy to welcome new teams too – please get in touch with Liz Barnes and book your team in. We look forward to seeing you there. Bethan, Clare, Toby, Ruby and their families really appreciate the support received so far from across the village.

We also continue with our fund-raising for the Group Jumble Sale and Newspaper Collections which is spent on equipment and maintenance of the scout hut. We have recently replaced the guttering on the front of the building. We are planning to enter the Aviva Community Fund again this year, hoping to purchase extra camping equipment for section camps, for example a gas water urn and multiple ring gas cooker.

#### **Autumn Jumble Sale – Saturday 20 October – 2.00pm at East Coker Hall**

Please contact Max Bugler 862186 if you wish anything collected in the week before the jumble sale.

#### **Newspaper collections:**

The collection point is outside the school, opposite the village café, on the last Saturday of each month from **9.00am to 10.30am** – please note later starting time. If possible, please flat-pack your newspapers and tie into bundles.

**Saturday 27 October**

**Saturday 24 November**

**Saturday 29 December**

David Webber, Group Scout Leader [eastcokerscouts@gmail.com](mailto:eastcokerscouts@gmail.com)

**...SAVE THE DATE... SAVE THE DATE... SAVE THE DATE... SAVE THE DATE... SAVE THE DATE...**



## Bonus Village Quiz

### Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> Nov 2018

East Coker Village Hall - 7pm for 7.30 start  
in aid of East Coker Scouts World Scout Jamboree trip to West Virginia in 2019





**Same format as the phenomenally successful Village Quiz!**

**£10 per person including hot supper - maximum 8 per team**

**For more details or to enter your team please contact**

**Liz Barnes on 07969 628657 / 01935 864405 / lizziechris@btinternet.com**



## EAST COKER PRIMARY SCHOOL

What a great start to the new academic year we have had! The children have settled in so well and I am very proud of them. It's like we haven't been away!

We welcome a new Deputy Head Teacher this year, Mr James Rich, who is as keen on sport as we are, and we are looking forward to developing our sport even further. Yet again we achieved our silver award, and this year we are going for gold! Our ambassadors, house captains and school council are almost up and running and we are excited about the new pupil leadership opportunities we will be developing over the next year. We will also be having a strong focus on well-being and mental health, and are part of a maths research programme, which looks like it will be really beneficial to our children.

Last year, we worked really hard developing our phonics, maths and grammar, and we are really proud of our results. Year 2 maths has increased by 32% and reading by 11% this year, and we are above the national average in reading, writing and maths in Year 2. We have also made great improvements in Year 6, and our reading scores have increased by 23% along with improvements in grammar, punctuation and spelling and writing.

As part of our whole school 'Deadly Planet' topic this term, we have already visited Sherborne Old Castle, and our older children will be visiting Ham Hill to learn about the Romans.

Once again, our Year 6 pupils are looking forward to their Charter House residential next week, and we have our Year 4 and Year 5 children off to Osmington Bay soon for their activity weekend.

If you would like more information about East Coker School, please look at our website [www.eastcokerschool.co.uk](http://www.eastcokerschool.co.uk)

Jane Hesketh-Williams, Head Teacher

## EAST COKER PLAYGROUP Find us on [www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk](http://www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk)

At the end of the Summer term, the Playgroup wished good luck and waved goodbye to those children going to school in September. Now Autumn term has begun, and Playgroup welcomes returning families and families new to the group.

Our next fundraiser is the Annual Craft Fair to be held on **Saturday, 17 November 2018**, from 10.30am to 3.30pm in East Coker Hall. There will be a variety of stalls, plus the Playgroup hold a raffle, run the cake stall and provide refreshments during the day. Come along and make a start on the Christmas shopping, we look forward to seeing you. Please email [ecplaygroup@aol.com](mailto:ecplaygroup@aol.com) 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 years. We accept 2 year old funding, 15 hours Universal Early Years Entitlement, Extended Entitlement 30 hours free childcare, Tax Free Childcare and Childcare Vouchers. For more information on support with childcare costs, please visit [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) the Childcare Choices website which makes it easy to find out what's on offer.

We are open during term time at the following session times:

- Monday 8.00-12.00 - 1.00-4.00
- Tuesday 8.00-12.00 - 1.00-4.00
- Wednesday 8.00-12.00 - 1.00-4.00
- Thursday 8.00-12.00 - 1.00-4.00
- Friday 8.00-12.00 - 1.00-4.00

Children staying for lunch need to bring a packed lunch.

If you are seeking childcare for your 2-year old, East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup accepts children from their 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday to starting school. For the past few years, the staff at East Coker Playgroup also staff East Chinnock Under Fives playgroup. East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup is a smaller group and this can be a great benefit to the younger children.

### **Toddler Session**

East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup also run an integrated Toddler Session on Thursday mornings from 9.30am to 11.00am for £2 per family. On Thursday 4 October, we will have a story time session with Kay Voizey, see our Facebook page East Chinnock Playgroup for details of forthcoming Toddler session events and the playgroup.

For more information, and to put your child/children on the waiting list for either East Coker Playgroup or East Chinnock Under Fives, please contact Kay Strode on 07503751133 or email [ecplaygroup@aol.com](mailto:ecplaygroup@aol.com)

## **The Churches**

### **ALL SAINTS' CLOSWORTH – Nativity Presentation, Christmas Eve, 24 December at 4.00pm.**

Again I am relieved that Rev. Caroline O'Neill, our new assistant priest, is taking the service at Cloworth on Christmas Eve. Baby Jesus was booked last Christmas. I hope the young children will come dressed as usual as Angels, Kings, Shepherds or children from many lands, and I will be making the musical instruments available.

For further information, or if there is heavy snow or ice, please phone me on 862834.

Monica

### **EAST COKER CHAPEL, BURTON LANE, BA22 9LJ – WE HAVE MOVED !!!**

We now meet every week at the East Coker Hall on Sunday Mornings at 11.00am for a time of worship led by our worship band; an inspirational and challenging short message, prayer and plenty of tea, coffee and biscuits. (Just check our website, as there are a few Sundays not available to us in the morning.)

**Kids Church** takes place during the second half of the service; we are splitting into more groups with growing numbers. They play, learn bible stories and often do craft activities.

We are a growing community of people from all walks of life who gather together regularly to worship God, learn how to better follow Him and to encourage each other in our lives as Christians. If you are looking for answers to some of life's big questions, why not come along to one of our services or events and find out more.

**Cafe Church** is church with breakfast! This is held on the first Sunday of the month at East Coker Hall at 11.00am.

**Prayer Gathering** is held at the Chapel on the last Sunday of the month at 5.00pm. A very informal get-together, usually over a cup of tea, discussing points for prayer. **Please note this is still held at the Chapel at the end of Burton Lane.**



**Home Groups** We currently have two home groups meeting fortnightly on Tuesdays 8.00pm at various venues.

**Little Wheelers** is our baby and toddler group held at the East Coker Hall during term time from 10.30am - 12.00pm. We welcome parents, grandparents and carers. Children can play in a safe environment; craft activities and/or singing sessions are provided in the Dampier room. Parents/Guardians remain responsible for their children throughout the session. Refreshments available.

Also, we have Christmas Evening with Julie Dunn booked for **Sunday 9 December**, at 7.30pm where we will enjoy Christmas Classics and cheese and wine. Please bring your own drink and glasses with refreshment provided.

For any further details of events or general enquiries, please email [ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk) or take a look at our website [www.eastcokerchapel.com](http://www.eastcokerchapel.com). You can also follow us on Facebook.

Phil & Liz Dunning 07949 840442. Joe & Charlotte Dunning 07800 746754.



**SAMARITANS**  
YEovil, SHERBORNE AND DISTRICT

# COULD YOU VOLUNTEER WITH US?

Learn new skills, meet new people. Be there.

**A lot of people need us.** That's why our volunteers are always around to give anyone who is struggling to cope the space and time to talk.

## Find out about joining Samaritans

Our information evenings take place on the first Wednesday of every month at 25, The Park, Yeovil BA20 1DG at 7pm.

We welcome and value volunteers from all walks of life and full training is provided. You must be 18 and over.

☎ 01935 414 015\*  
✉ [recruitment@yeovilsamaritans.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@yeovilsamaritans.org.uk)  
🌐 [samaritans.org/yeovil](http://samaritans.org/yeovil)

\*Local call charges apply. Samaritans of Yeovil Sherborne and District is a charity registered in England and Wales (1168371).

## ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

We certainly enjoyed wonderful weather this summer. As we enter into Autumn, we are hopefully ready for the cooler weather! Unfortunately, St Michael's is still searching for a Churchwarden. If you happen to know anyone who may be interested, please get in touch with either The Rev Colin Simpson on [rector42@icloud.com](mailto:rector42@icloud.com) and tel 862429 or the Benefice Administrator, Barbs on email [barbsmack@me.com](mailto:barbsmack@me.com).

Our new Associate Priest, the Rev Caroline O'Neill took her first service at St Michael's at the end of August. It was lovely to see so many people in church to welcome her.

The interviews for a new Benefice Children and Families Work Leader will take place in October – so hopefully events for our children and young families will start soon after.

We are pleased that Jacqueline Clough has now recovered from her fall and has resumed her role leading the Café Church.

If you would like to receive regular Church News, then pick up a weekly Pew Sheet from the back of the Church; if you would like regular updates, then let us know your email address. Just a reminder for you of the Service rota for St Michael's:

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	11am - Sung Eucharist
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	8am – Holy Communion
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	10am – Café Church 6pm – Evensong
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	11am - Sung Eucharist
Every Thursday	10am – Holy Communion



### SHOEBOX APPEAL

It's that time of year again!!

Once again we are supporting the Shoebox Appeal for Christmas. If you don't know about it, take a shoebox, cover it with Christmas paper, fill it with gifts for boys & girls across the world who will receive nothing for Christmas.

Please help if you can, if you can't manage a whole box a donation of crayons, notebooks, small toys would be wonderful.

For more details please contact: Judith Shaw, tel. 863218

THANK YOU

Please get them to me by the end of October/beginning of November

### Dates for your diary:

**Sunday 7 October at 11.00am** Our Harvest Service. This will be followed by a Bring and Share Lunch in the church. Please bring plate & cutlery, drinks available. Fresh produce will be given to local homeless, and tins/dry foods to the Lord's Larder. The Collection will go to a Yeovil Hostel for the homeless.

**Saturday 27 October** There will be a Fairtrade Stall at the Winter Fayre, East Coker Hall.

**Friday 2 November** Parish Day, Wine & Cheese, 7.00pm East Coker Hall

**Sunday 4 November** All Soul's Service, 4.00pm at St Michael's.

**Sunday 11 November** 10.45am Remembrance Day Service

**Sunday 16 December** Carol Service, 6.00pm St Michael's.

**Monday 24 December** Christmas Eve, Midnight Mass, 11.30 pm, St Michael's.

**Tuesday 25 December No Service At St Michael's** - See Pew sheet for Benefice Services.

**Sunday 30 December** Benefice Service at All Saints', Sutton Bingham, 10.00am.

Contact details:

Rev. Colin Simpson – [rector42@icloud.com](mailto:rector42@icloud.com) and tel 862429

### All Souls Service – 4 November at 4 00pm,

Colin is planning to hold a Service to remember those we have loved but see no longer at St Michael's Church, East Coker. After the strain of my sister's illness resulting in her death recently, I am relieved Colin has suggested he takes the names of those who you would like remembered, if you are coming to the service.

Colin can be contacted by phone 862429, by letter at The Rectory, 7 Cedar Fields, West Coker BA22 9DB or email [rector42@icloud.com](mailto:rector42@icloud.com)

Monica 86 2834

[www.eastcoker.com](http://www.eastcoker.com)

### THE MOBILE LIBRARY

We are very fortunate to still have the Mobile Library visiting East Coker every 4 weeks from 12.40pm to 12.55pm on a Tuesday, stopping at the Helyar Arms. These dates are published on the Parish Council's website calendar at [www.eastcokerparish.com](http://www.eastcokerparish.com) and in East Coker Society's Diary.

The range of books is impressive and the stock is exchanged at regular intervals using material from other libraries. The Librarian is very helpful and will obtain books on request. Please support this valuable service. If we don't use it, there is a risk of losing it!

**Dates**                      **Tuesday 16 October**    **Tuesday 13 November**                      **Tuesday 11 December**

### EAST COKER WEA

After we held a very successful study day earlier in the year, we have decided to offer more meetings which may interest others to try the WEA. We have arranged the following lectures and are hoping to organise others next year - possibly a day with Michael Turner on the Great Western Railway, date and time announced later.

Bookings are essential at [www.wea.org.uk](http://www.wea.org.uk) or call 0300 303 3464. For local enquiries, our secretary is Vivienne Ford, 01935 863954. We look forward to seeing you.

Many thanks, Daphne Mills.

### ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

In the last newsletter, I was telling you how we were gearing up to pack 8,500 Cream Teas to be delivered all over the country. We started at 6am in the morning and had them all packed and ready to go by 11.30am. A fabulous achievement, and only possible by the help of our volunteers, many from the village.

Our grateful thanks go to all of them. Final figures have not been completed, but to date over £65,000 has been raised this year by the local and national Cream Teas.

We are now gearing up for our ever popular Diva Lunch on 12 October - details of how we did on that in the next Newsletter.

Jane Donnelly 01935 478409



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## EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

**Somerset Village of the Year** A team of people met with the Judges and all attending felt that it was a great success. The winner will be announced on Friday 26 October. Our thanks go to Karen, the Ranger, for working very hard before the visit to tidy the village.

**Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal** To commemorate the 100th anniversary of World War 1, the Parish Council are making available large poppies to purchase from the Village Café in early October, for a donation of £5 or more. You can write your message for your family or friends who served in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War on the poppy, and it will be placed in the poppy display (Bus Shelter) in the village between 28 October and 12 November. Larger poppies will be used to decorate the village.

**Defibrillator** Has been installed in memory of the late Councilor James (Jimmy) New. Training has been arranged for Wednesday 17 October, 7.00pm at the Pavilion. Andrew and Sarah Summers, retired doctors from the village, will give a talk on using the defibrillator. Training on CPR will also be given.

**The Chapel** The works are complete to make it a safe and useable space. It will still be expected that the Chapel will be a place of quiet reflection, but if you have any suggestions on how else it can be used, please contact the Clerk. A working group meeting will be held shortly – date to be confirmed.

**Neighbourhood Plan** Was approved by the SSDC last month, and the necessary Referendum to enable you to vote has been confirmed for **Wednesday 7 November** at East Coker Hall, 7.00am--10.00pm. This will be co-ordinated by SSDC and not the Parish Council. We will be holding an 'Information Morning' regarding the NP at the Village Café, **Saturday 13 October**, 10.00am till Noon. The village of the year video will be available to view.

**Loneliness Awareness Getting involved in our community.** We have some positive feedback and are working with the Time to Share Club who already have an effective buddy system – involving members and many others who offer their time and help. Everyone has a story and something interesting to say - small talk can make such a difference! We would love to hear from you if you have any ideas how to get this support into the wider community.

**Highways - Pot Holes** Please report any pot holes to the Clerk. SSDC give a 6-8 week lead time for repair. If possible, could you please include a photo of the pothole and its location. Thank you.

**Dog Waste Bins** The waste in these bins goes to Landfill along with other household rubbish, and is not recycled.

**Grant Aids** are available from the East Coker Parish Council for the benefit of East Coker Groups and Societies. If you have a parish group which would benefit, please contact the Clerk for further details or download the application form from our website.

We have an ongoing issue in the Parish with '**fly tipping**'. If you see any rubbish that has been dumped illegally, please contact the Clerk.

**Village Traffic – Speed and Signage** The proposal to have a speed limit through the village has been accepted by Highways. We are now going through the consultation process with different organisations and hope to have the signage installed by the end of the year. The new bus stop, opposite the triangle, is proving a great success and as yet no fines, of up to £110, have been issued.

**Pavilion Refurbishment** Plans are in the early stages for the refurbishment of the Pavilion, upgrading the changing rooms, a boot room entrance for the pre-school and an upgrade of the playground. If you would like to be involved with the working group, please contact the Clerk.

**Carols** Due to Health and Safety concerns, the Parish Council have decided not to hold Christmas Carols around the Christmas Tree on Christmas Eve this year. However, the Christmas tree will still be installed at the Paddock and the lights will be switched on from the 12 December."

If you see the **Ranger**, Karen, working in and around the Parish, a cuppa would be most welcome. If you see anything that needs her attention, please contact Chairman B. Sugg, 863435 (no calls after 6.00pm please).

The Parish Council hold a **monthly meeting**, every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 7.00pm at the Pavilion. It is a public meeting to discuss planning and other issues affecting the Parish. You are all welcome to attend. If you would like to speak at the meeting, please contact the Clerk before or at the meeting.



## Diary dates

- **Saturday 13 October** – Neighbourhood Plan Information Morning – Village Café – 10.00am – 12.00pm
- **Wednesday 7 November** – Neighbourhood Plan Referendum – East Coker Hall, 7.00am – 10.00pm

**Email circulation list.** If you would like to be kept up-to-date with Parish Council news, please contact the Clerk. GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) are followed and you can opt-out at any time.

**Councillors' contact details** are on our website, [www.eastcokerparish.com](http://www.eastcokerparish.com).

The Parish Clerk, Gillian Macpherson, can be reached on 01935 864354 (Tuesday and Thursday, 10.00am – 3.00pm). Answerphone at all other times, email [clerk@eastcokerparish.com](mailto:clerk@eastcokerparish.com).

## THE VILLAGE CAFÉ

Dear all,

The little café has enjoyed a wonderful summer, and we are looking forward to a fab autumn and, dare I mention the word, Christmas.

### Remembrance Day

Sunday 11 November - we would like to invite you to bring photos, stories or even just names of loved ones, whether family, friends or acquaintances, to the café so we can put them on our remembrance wall. We will photocopy any photos that you bring in, so the originals stay safe. If you would like to bring anything in, please have it with us by **Saturday 3 November**. I would love to fill the remembrance wall, so please start bringing in your memories.

All my love,

Kiet xx

# Rake's Progress



**A garden tidying and maintenance service.**

**No job too small! Friendly and hardworking local service, based in East Coker.**

**Call Neil on 07581 538713 for a free, no obligation quote at a competitive price.**

**BRITISH SUMMER TIME ends Sunday 28 October.** Clocks go back one hour.

[www.eastcoker.com](http://www.eastcoker.com)

## BONFIRES

It pays to plan really well before having a bonfire. Please inform neighbours and check that hedgehogs have not taken up residence. Think of the direction of the wind, and don't allow damp material to smoulder. Late in the afternoon allows people to enjoy sitting in the sun, washing to be dried, and gardening to be done without having to retreat indoors from bonfire smoke and falling ash. Please be neighbourhood-friendly.

## REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Christmas and New Year waste and recycling collections. The collection normally on Wednesday 26 December will be on Friday 28 December, and the collection normally on Wednesday 2 January 2019 will be on Thursday 3 January 2019.

## NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **January 2019**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or email [l.lindsay@eastcoker.com](mailto:l.lindsay@eastcoker.com), by **Friday 4 January 2019 or before if possible**.

Fri 5 Oct	The Chapel – Fun Quiz Night	-	East Coker Hall
Mon 8 Oct	WI – Fun & Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 11 Oct	Gardening Club – Brimsmore Visit	6.30pm	Brimsmore
Fri 12 Oct	Action Medical Research – Diva Lunch	Opens 11.15am	Haselbury Mill
Sat 13 Oct	RBL – Coffee Morning	10.00am-12.00pm	West Coker Hall
Sat 13 Oct	Parish Council – Neighbourhood Plan	10.00am-12.00pm	Village Café
Mon 15 Oct	Time To Share – Birds of Prey	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 16 Oct	Library	12.40pm-12.55pm	The Helyar Arms
Wed 17 Oct	Parish Council – Defibrillator Demo	7.00pm	the Pavilion
Thurs 18 Oct	WI – Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 20 Oct	The Scouts – Jumble Sale	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 25 Oct	WI – Home Safety	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 26 Oct	Coffee Morning – Children in Need	10.00am-12.00pm	The Forester's
Sat 27 Oct	The Scouts – Newspaper Collection	9.00am-10.30am	Near the school
Sat 27 Oct	East Coker Society – Winter Fayre	2.00pm-4.00pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 29 Oct	Time To Share – Silver Chix	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 30 Oct	Poetry Group - Competition	7.30pm	The Helyar Arms
Wed 31 Oct	FilmFlix – The Post	7.00pm-7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 2 Nov	St Michael's – Parish Day Cheese & Wine	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 4 Nov	St Michael's – All Soul's Service	4.00pm	
Mon 5 Nov	WI – Fun & Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 7 Nov	Wine Circle – Godminster Tasting	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 7 Nov	Neighbourhood Plan Referendum	7.00am-10.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 8 Nov	Gardening Club - AGM	7.30pm	Quicksilver Mail
Sat 10 Nov	The Scouts – Bonus Village Quiz	7.00pm-7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 11 Nov	RBL – Service of Remembrance	10.45am	St Michael's
Mon 12 Nov	Time To Share – Wood Turning & Poppies	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 13 Nov	Library	12.40pm-12.55pm	The Helyar Arms
Thurs 15 Nov	WI – Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 17 Nov	The Playgroup – Craft Fair	10.30am-3.30pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 21 Nov	FilmFlix – the Darkest Hour	7.00pm-7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 24 Nov	The Scouts – Newspaper Collection	9.00am-10.30am	Near the school
Mon 26 Nov	Time To Share – Alpacas	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 27 Nov	Poetry Group – Different	7.30pm	The Helyar Arms
Tues 27 Nov	RBL – AGM	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 29 Nov	WI – Avoiding Scams	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 30 Nov	The Payers – Pantomime – Calamity Dame	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 1 Dec	The Players – Pantomime – Calamity Dame	2.30pm & 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 3 Dec	WI – Fun & Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 5 Dec	Wine Circle – Competitions	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 9 Dec	Village Christmas Lunch	12.00pm & 1.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 9 Dec	The Chapel – Christmas Evening	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 10 Dec	Time To Share – Carol Service	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 11 Dec	Library	12.40pm-12.55pm	The Helyar Arms
Thurs 13 Dec	Gardening Club – Festive Evening - JJR	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 16 Dec	Carol Service – St Michael's Church	6.00pm	
Mon 17 Dec	Time To Share – Christmas Lunch	12.30pm	Village Café
Thurs 20 Dec	WI – Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 24 Dec	Nativity Service – All Saints', Closworth	4.00pm	
Mon 24 Dec	Midnight Mass – St Michael's Church	11.30pm	
Tues 25 Dec	St Michael's Church - No Service	-	-
Fri 28 Dec	Refuse Collection - Change of day	-	-
Sat 29 Dec	The Scouts – Newspaper Collection	9.00am-10.30am	Near the school
Sun 30	Benefice Service – Sutton Bingham	10.00am	All Saints'
<b>2019</b>			
Thurs 3 Jan	Refuse Collection – Change of day	-	-
<b>Fri 4 Jan</b>	<b>Copy for January Newsletter</b>		
Mon 7 Jan	The Players – AGM	7.00pm	East Coker Hall