

# East Coker Society Newsletter



October 2019

Free Issue No 176

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## East Coker Society News

### BULK OIL PURCHASE SCHEME

We are looking for a volunteer to organise the Bulk Oil Purchase Scheme. For those of you who have taken part in purchasing your oil in this way, you will be aware of the financial benefits. Paul Edwards, who sadly died earlier this year, set up and managed this communal scheme most efficiently on our behalf for many years. It would be a fitting tribute to Paul if it was to continue.

As he would have said, "Do it Now – The More We Buy, The More We Save".

**Winter Fayre** – As reported in July, there will be no Winter Fayre this year.

Sarah Owen Secretary

## Village Clubs and Organisations

### BONFIRES

Autumn - Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. It is also the season for clearing our gardens in preparation for winter. Try to recycle or compost all that valuable material, which is perfect for mulching.

**Bonfires** should be a last resort and carefully planned. Consider the weather conditions and your neighbours. Pay particular attention to the wind direction, and don't burn grass and other wet vegetation which will smoulder for hours. Most important(!) - think carefully about the impact on your neighbours, who may have washing out to dry or simply want to enjoy their own homes and gardens without the nuisance inflicted by your smoke and falling ash!

### EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 8.00pm at East Coker Hall, unless otherwise advised.

Subscriptions of £15 were due in September.

Wednesday 2 October	How to run a Village Café with Keita and Steve
Friday 18 October	'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' – Octagon Theatre, 7.30pm
Wednesday 6 November	Montacute - Tudor history and intrigue – Ian Gibson
Wednesday 4 December	Alweston - Jam and Chutney Empire - presentation
Wednesday 18 January	Cruising at the Captains Table with Jan McNeil
Wednesday 15 February	Cider from Ham Hill – tasting

We welcome new members. Come along and enjoy a great evening, bring snacks and your own drink choices with glasses.

Sarah Rashley

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

## **EAST COKER PLAYERS**

The Players have started rehearsing for Pantomime after our Summer break. This year's Pantomime is 'Robin Hood and The Babes in The Wood'. We welcome our new producer Jon Margetts and new members Ami, Daz, Nic, Layla, Annabelle and Tyler to our group.

We still have room for more people in our chorus if you would like to join in. Minimum age 8 years. Call in, we rehearse Monday and Thursday evenings at 7.00pm in the Dampier Room. There is always lots to do backstage and front of house; if you would like to help, contact us.

During the summer, we were saddened to hear of the passing of Arthur Rees. Arthur was a founder member of the Players and took part in numerous variety show, plays and pantomimes. He will be remembered for his great sense of humour, comic timing and for being our first Dame.

### **Advance notices**

**Robin Hood and the Babes in the Wood** Performance dates are Friday 29 November at 7.30pm and Saturday 30 November at 2.30pm and 7.30pm, in the East Coker Hall. Tickets - Adults £6. Children £4. Available from Vicky 862711 after 4 November 2019.

Our **AGM** will be held on Monday 6 January 2020 at 7.30pm in the Dampier Room, East Coker Hall. All welcome.

For further information, contact Anne Hartley 862060 or Hazel Giddings 429163

## **EAST COKER 400 CLUB**

### **400 Club Summer Draw**

£100 Mrs Valerie Whittock; £50 Mrs Christine Cooper; £40 Mr Ken McIver; £30 Mr and Mrs Michael Mead; £20 Ms V Von Preussen; £15 Mr Russell Chatwin; £10 Mr Martin Wells.

If anyone wishes to join the 400 Club, the annual subs are £20, please contact either Mary Ashley 862263 or Mike Weston 862472

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

### **Poppy Appeal**

I am pleased to inform you that Dave Giles has taken on the role of Poppy Appeal Organiser (PAO) for the East Coker District.

House to House collections will now continue but not in all areas, as some collectors have decided to retire. Would you be willing to become a collector helping the RBL in their continued support of our service personnel, veterans, families and dependants? It will take about 2 to 3 hours of your time from 26 October to 10 November.

Please contact Membership Sec & PAO Dave Giles 433644, mob 0773322806 [d.giles39@gmail.com](mailto:d.giles39@gmail.com)

Thank-you for your continued support.

### **Dates for Diaries**

Saturday 12 October 2019, 10.00am – 12.30pm - Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning at West Coker Memorial Hall.

Sunday 10 November 2019 - Remembrance Sunday. Our service in St Michael's Church will commence at 10.50am.

### **Contacts**

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

Secretary Marilyn Smith 863944.

Membership Sec Dave Giles 433644 [d.giles39@gmail.com](mailto:d.giles39@gmail.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

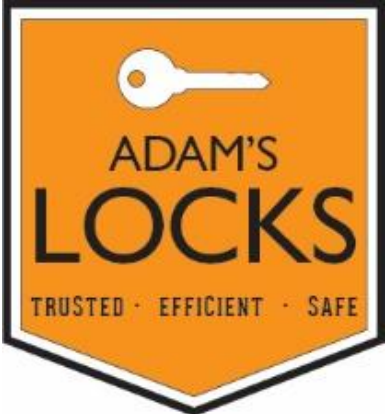
## TIME TO SHARE

- Monday 14 October Help at Home with Rod Jones
- Monday 28 October Crop Circles with Gil
- Monday 11 November Strange Objects - Margaret O'Neill
- Monday 25 November Wiltshire Farm Foods - Christmas Tasting Menu
- Monday 9 December Carol Service (East Coker Hall)
- Monday 16 December Christmas Lunch (Village Café)

Don't forget! Time to Share is a great way to spend a Monday afternoon every now and then. We **always** have a lot of fun, great speakers, and fantastic homemade cake! What more could you want? Come along and see us sometime. Everyone welcome whether visiting the Village or just feeling a bit fed up. I can guarantee you won't feel fed up when you leave. 2.30pm – 4.00pm every other Monday at the East Coker Hall.

Call Sandra Snelling 862162 for details.

We also have a Wi-Fi Club in the Village Café every Tuesday morning. Not interested in computers? Just come for a coffee then! 10.00am – 12 noon.





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## BURTON BOOK CLUB

Burton Book Club continues to thrive. We have decided to meet in members' homes as we were finding it difficult to hear ourselves speak at Goose Slade! We will continue to meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm. The October meeting will be held at my house.

Please contact me if you have a problem with these arrangements.

Penny Marpole 863055

## FILMFLIXS – Films at East Coker Hall



Film nights recommenced on Wednesday, 25 September with *Fisherman's Friends*.

The programme for the following months is as follows:

Wednesday 30 October	<i>Green Book</i>
Wednesday 27 November	<i>Can you ever forgive me?</i>

There will be no film in December.

We endeavour to provide a variety of films but are limited by what is offered to us. Audience numbers have been low. If this continues, serious consideration will have to be given as to whether film nights continue in 2020. A minimum audience of 45 is needed in order to continue with these evenings. As we are sure most of you are aware, the East Coker Hall is a charitable trust and cannot afford to host evenings such as film nights at a loss. Film nights are organised by a very small, dedicated group of people and we very much hope that support for these evenings will increase.

Showings commence at 7.30pm.  
Doors open 7.00pm. Entry £6 per person.

For further details contact 01935 863002 or 01935 862447

## EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

Would you believe – 20 years old this November! Congratulations to all those, past and present, who have helped to make the Club so successful. The current committee and members continue to work hard to ensure the future of the Club.

Yet again a busy summer schedule for the members. The summer garden party was a great success, being enjoyably spent in a member's beautiful garden. The best dressed gardener's hat, musical accompaniment provided by Adelaide and Claire, a cream tea and a celebratory 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake supplied the finishing touches. The talk in August entitled *Along Patagonia's floral Highway* by Hilary Little was fascinating, giving an insight to a part of Chile which many of us will not have the opportunity to visit.

This was followed in September by a talk on *Garden Giants* – not all of which were plants. As we wind down towards the end of the year we can look forward in particular to David Moon's talk, ***Gardens from near and far***, at our October meeting – many members will recall his excellent presentation in October 2017, with superb photos and accompanying music, entitled "Gardens of the rich and famous". The white geraniums, grown from plug plants kindly donated by the Gardens Group, were judged at the August meeting, the winner being presented with a voucher to spend at the Gardens Group. The 2020 annual holiday, to the Isle of Wight, is fully subscribed.

The programme for the remainder of 2019 is as follows:

- |                        |   |            |
|------------------------|---|------------|
| • Thursday 10 October  | <b><i>Gardens from near and far</i></b> | David Moon |
| • Thursday 14 November | <b><i>AGM</i></b>                       | Red House  |
| • Thursday 12 December | <b><i>Festive Evening</i></b>           |            |

The 2020 programme is complete, ready to go for printing, and will be available at the January meeting.

The small committee do 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 WI

Providing members with a good social evening each month with a variety of interesting and informative speakers, East Coker Women's Institute meets on the last Thursday of each month at East Coker Hall from 7.30pm. Members who are single, in particular, find the evenings time to make new friends who share similar interests. Twice a year we join with other Somerset WI's to play ten-pin bowling as well as inter Institute skittles matches. We also organise social outings during the year.

This September, we all enjoyed a commercial wine-tasting by David Pryor who had been a founder member of East Coker Wine Circle. On 31 October, we are having a session on Pins, Needles and a Sewing Machine, perhaps we might be able to take advantage of this knowledge when it comes to entries for next year's Village Show. Dorset lad Bonny Sartin will be taking us from Corscombe to New Zealand, more than likely with a few songs thrown in. Our traditional Christmas lunch will take place in December. Experiences during the war period will be the subject of Dr Francis Burroughs in January.

The whist drives have restarted on the third Thursday of the month at 7.00pm in the Dampier room, open to anyone who enjoys a card game. The cost is £5, to include refreshments half-way through the evening.

The Fun and Games sessions continue on one Monday each month at 2.00pm at the East Coker Hall and are open to any villager.

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

### Diary dates

• Monday 7 October	Fun and Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
• Thursday 17 October	Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
• Thursday 24 October	Pins, Needles & a Sewing Machine	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
• Monday 4 November	Fun and Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
• Thursday 21 November	Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
• Thursday 28 November	From Corscombe to New Zealand	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
• Monday 2 December	Fun and Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
• Thursday 19 December	Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall

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## EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

**Forthcoming Events – Autumn 2019 – Meetings start at 7.30pm**

**Change of Venue** – The Village Café, The Old Coach Yard, East Coker, BA22 9HY will be our venue for the meeting in September. We hope this will become our new permanent venue, but do check our website [www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk](http://www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk) before future meetings.



We thank Patrick and Claire at the Helyar Arms for letting us use the Apple Loft during the last four years, but we have all agreed that a new venue is needed. Recent changes in the Apple Loft have meant that the seating is restricted and much less flexible, making it difficult to accommodate the number of people who come to our meetings. Some difficulties have also arisen due to the limited car parking available.

The Village Café in East Coker is an excellent venue with ample seating, a lovely ambience and good location near the school. The café is licensed and so a glass of wine or pint of ale can still accompany the poetry! The doors will be open for us from 7.00pm. There is parking space available in the car park behind the café as this is not used by the other business users in the evening. Extra parking is always available in the road outside the café.

### **Tuesday 29 October – Competition Evening**

Our theme this year is 'The Poetic Highway Code' which can be interpreted in any way you wish. For example, the inspiration could be anything from a particular journey, to the lights, signs or yellow lines that 'decorate' our roads – the choice is yours. There is still time to put in an entry before **1 October, which is the deadline for entries.**

I hope each entry will consist of two poems – a very short poem such as a Haiku or Limerick and a second poem which can be whatever length or style you like. And it would be good if at least one of the two poems could link in some way with a particular road sign, but this is not obligatory.

As always, we hope you can come and read your entry at the meeting, but if you cannot come or would prefer not to read, your poem will be read by one of our 'resident readers'. These competition evenings are always fun!

### **Tuesday 26 November – Australian Poetry Evening**

Diane Summer leads this evening. Will we be sitting under the shade of a coolibah tree by the billabong while the hot antipodean sun shines? There is much more to the vast continent of Australia than Waltzing Matilda – come along and hear the poetry.

Our website [www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk](http://www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk)

For more information contact David Cloke, Group Coordinator email [info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk](mailto:info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk)

David Cloke

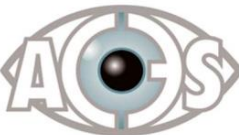


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## EAST COKER FLOWER & PRODUCE SHOW – Saturday 17 August 2019 at East Coker Hall

The Show this year was very well supported, with over 100 people putting in entries. Visitors were well up on last year and hopefully enjoyed looking at the entries and refreshing themselves with tea and homemade cakes. We were extremely pleased that more children entered this year; their imagination and inventiveness is always a delight and there were some excellent entries from them. We hope they enjoyed making their entries and attending the show – we look forward to welcoming them back next year and to welcoming some new youngsters.

There were 90 excellent entries in the Groups class, with their *Faces on a Paper Plate*. Entries were from East Coker Beavers, East Coker Cubs, East Coker Playgroup, West Coker Rainbows and West Coker Brownies. The Beavers, with 20 points, won the Doreen Bates Group Challenge Cup. Cup Winners in the various classes were as follows:

Maudsley Silver Challenge Cup for most points in Show: Linda Mayne (69 points)	Archie Nevill Memorial Cup for most points in Fruit & Veg Section: John Langdon (44pts)	League of Friends Cup for most points in Flower Section: Linda Mayne (48pts)
Ralph Eacott Plaque for Best Vase of Dahlias: John Hudson	Pittard Rose Cup for 5 Roses: Mary Rawlings	Mrs Newman Cup for Gladioli: Mollie Hoskinson
Jane Harvey Pot Plant Salver: David Howells	Don White Challenge Cup for best Fuchsia in Show: Ruth Hann	Molly Kettlewell Cup for collection of mixed herbs: Christine Mead
Miss Keefe Cup for most points in Floral Art: Linda Mayne (13pts)	Drake Memorial Cup for most points in Homecraft: joint winners: Jackie Glover and Sally Howells (18pts)	Eileen Doye Memorial Cup for best Jam: Jackie Glover
Christine Mead Cup for best Craft: Barbara Armstrong (24pts)	Society Photographic Trophy: David Pryor (17pts)	Mrs Wilcox Novice Art Posy Bowl: Ian Boswell
John Whittock Memorial Challenge Cup for Judge's favourite photo: David Pryor	East Coker Gardening Club Cup (children's classes under 5 years): Henry Barnes	Gloria Mead Cup (children's classes 6-10 years): Eva Kilbee
Miss E B Drake Challenge Cup (children's classes 11-15 years): Emily Palmer	Olive Sharman Photographic Award: Clare Barnes-Thornton	Doreen Bates Challenge Cup: The Beavers
Most points in Wine Classes: David Pryor (11pts)	East Coker best Wine in Show: Chris and Pat Nile	

Congratulations to you all. Please enter again next year and encourage others to do so – the date is Saturday 15 August.

Thank you to all who supported the Show by entering, coming to view, having a go at the Tombola Table and purchasing raffle tickets. If you also had tea and cake, we trust you enjoyed the cakes, all of which were made by Flower Show Committee Members. The Committee Members of the Flower Show spend a great deal of time and effort in putting on this annual show, so we are extremely appreciative of the support shown by those who enter the show and by those who take the time and trouble to attend. It costs around £800 each year to put on the show. These costs are covered solely by monies raised from the door, raffle, tombola, teas and WI stall and by those who kindly advertise in the schedule. Our thanks also go to the Village Café and to Goose Slade Farm for kindly having the post boxes for the entry forms.

So – make a note in your diaries for next year – **Saturday 15 August 2020 – EAST COKER FLOWER SHOW** when we look forward to welcoming you. Keep an eye out in future issues of the East Coker Society Newsletter for updates on next year's Show.

## EAST COKER VILLAGE QUIZ – Saturday 7 March 2020.

Planning is well under way for next year's Village Quiz on Saturday 7 March 2020. Marathons have been prepared, the Rounds are coming together, and the Cockerel Trophy is looking forward to a polish.

Please add the date to your new calendar.

The Quiz Gopher [eastcokerscouts@gmail.com](mailto:eastcokerscouts@gmail.com)



### EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

The summer season was rounded off with Beaver and Cub camps and the scout JAWS camp before our Group Rounders Night and BBQ. In July, a number of scouts flew in light aircraft and piloted the plane for most of the flights.



The Beaver, Cub and Scout programmes are now all prepared and we are ready for a full autumn term of scouting.

The Cubs started with a canoeing session at Sutton Bingham and will be at Pendomer Woods for backwoods cooking at the end of the month. A Halloween party, Fire Safety, making a poppy display and watching the pantomime at the Octagon will fill a busy term.

The Beavers are off to Ninesprings for an evening walk as well as visiting Pets At Home. They also have a sleepover in Bristol at Flip Out - all before half term.

Hunger Games is the theme for a scout activity weekend in October. This is a new event for which we have little details – other than the Scouts will need to evade capture until 2.00am to survive (win). A cooking challenge, pioneering and a joint night-hike with the Cubs will add to the variety on offer.



Bethan, Clare, Toby and Ruby had an amazing time at the World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia, USA. Leaving the UK on Saturday 20 July, they toured New York in an open top bus before taking the ferry to meet the buses taking them to West Virginia. Having arrived to set up camp in the pouring rain, the Jamboree soon got into full swing. The opening ceremony saw Bear Grylls (Chief Scout) abseiling onto the main stage and 250 micro-drones lighting up the night sky. White water rafting, climbing, archery, shooting, BMX bikes, meeting many different nationalities, swapping badges and making new friends filled the next 10 days. Then off to Washington DC and a

major league baseball match – the whole 4,000 UK contingent went together and through befriending one of the outfield players made the New York Times newspaper (look up 'Santander UK Fan Club'). The final stop was Hamilton, Canada and Niagara Falls.

We are planning to provide a WSJ presentation during the Village Quiz in March to show more of the Jamboree and the experiences gained.

#### **Autumn Jumble Sale: Saturday 19 October – 2.00pm at East Coker Hall**

Ideally, please bring your items for the jumble sale to the village hall after 9.00am on the day of the sale. If this is not possible, please contact Max Bugler 862186 if you wish anything collected in the week before the jumble sale.

#### **Newspaper collections (9.00am to 10.30am):**

**Saturday 26 October**

**Saturday 30 November**

**Saturday 28 December**

The collection point is outside the school, opposite the Village Café on the last Saturday of each month. If possible, please flat pack your newspapers and tie into bundles.

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



### EAST COKER PRIMARY SCHOOL

I hope you have had a lovely summer! Our children are all looking extremely smart in their brand-new uniforms, and the staff have been very impressed with their behaviour and wonderful manners.

We welcome our lovely new Reception children and their families to East Coker School and an additional six new pupils and families across the school.

We have been having a bit of work done over the holidays and we now have lovely new toilets for the boys, a new roof over part of the old building and a new playground surface.



Last year, we had a very successful sporting year. The children made it to the county finals in a number of events and won several cups and competitions. We also increased the number of events we competed in last year, including grass track cycling and tennis - we made it to the finals in both!

We also achieved our GOLD sports mark award as a result of the large number of pupils taking part in a range of sporting events ensuring as many children as possible get the opportunity to take part in sport.

Academically, the children continue to make good progress and as a school we continue to provide a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities for our young people. We also took part in lots of fundraising events for local charities and went on a number of educational visits.

Already this year we have had our autumn theatre company visit from M and M Productions thanks to the PTFA. This year it was 'The Hobbit', and our Year 5's had a small workshop afterwards with the actors.

In addition to this, we have already had our Year 6 residential to Great Wood Camp. Our Year 6 pupils had an amazing time in the wonderful sunshine, taking part in blindfold walks through a stream trail, swimming in the outdoor pool, orienteering, pond dipping, archery, beach visit, climbing walls and lots more. They were exceptionally well behaved and have really bonded well as a team. It was lovely to see how well they looked after and cared for each other, offering lots of encouragement and support to their team members.

We have had a brilliant start to our new academic year, and we are looking forward to a busy term full of exciting learning opportunities for all our children.

If you would like more information about East Coker School, please look at our website [www.eastcokerschool.co.uk](http://www.eastcokerschool.co.uk). We are always looking for volunteers to help with reading and topic activities, so please do contact the school if you are interested on 01935 862532.

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 the Playgroup welcomes returning families and families new to the group.

Our next fundraiser is the Annual Craft Fair to be held on Saturday, 16 November 2019, 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.

Our fully qualified staff and their wealth of experience offer quality childcare and education through play. Ofsted have consistently rated the group 'good' and commended us for the interaction and encouragement between staff and children, partnership with parents, teaching and management.

Children can join us from the age of 2½ years. We accept 2-year old funding, 15-hour Universal Early Years Entitlement, Extended Entitlement 30-hour 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 9:00-12:00 - 1:00-3:00
- Tuesday 9:00-12:00 - 1:00-3:00
- Wednesday 9:00-12:00 - 1:00-3:00
- Thursday 9:00-12:00 - 1:00-3:00
- Friday 9:00-12:00 - 1:00-3:00

Children staying for lunch need to bring a packed lunch.

Please enquire about extended opening hours 8am-4pm.

#### **East Chinnock Under Fives Preschool**

If you are seeking childcare for your 2-year old, East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup accepts children from their 2nd birthday to starting school. The setting has large outdoor space and a cosy playroom full of resources to facilitate playing and learning. 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 run a Toddler Session on Thursday mornings from 9.30am to 11.00am for £2 per family. Pop along and join in the fun, everyone is welcome.

To find out more information, please visit [www.eastchinnockunder5spreschool.co.uk](http://www.eastchinnockunder5spreschool.co.uk) or look at our Facebook page East Chinnock 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 07503 751133 or email [ecplaygroup@aol.com](mailto:ecplaygroup@aol.com).

## **The Churches**

### **THE CHAPEL - EAST COKER**

We would love to welcome you anytime you would like to pop along to any of our meetings, whether you have a faith or not! 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 events and find out more.

**Cafe Church at East Coker Village Hall.** A free breakfast, the chance to meet new people and an opportunity to see what church is really about. Great for all the family! Held on the first Sunday of the month at 11.00am.

**Sunday Mornings at East Coker Hall - 11.00am.** A time of worship, an inspirational and challenging short message, prayer and plenty of tea and biscuits. Includes Kids Church groups suitable for ages 2-14 years, and monthly all age service.

**Little Wheelers at East Coker Hall** is a baby and toddler Group which runs during term time from 10.30am-12.00pm. Parents/Guardians remain responsible for their children throughout the session.

**Light Party - Sunday 27 October 4.00pm – 6.00pm East Coker Hall.** An alternative to Halloween. Celebrate light with fun, faith, craft, food and a disco. For ages 5 to 11 but younger siblings will still be welcome. Get in contact if you would like to bring your little ones along.

### **Christmas Craft Evening - Saturday 16 November 7.30pm East Coker Hall**

An evening of 'come and have a go' Christmas crafts for ladies. There will be mulled wine and light refreshments, a brief Christian message and lots of craft.

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. Tel 01935863735

### **ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH (For a schedule of services, please see the end of this newsletter)**

**Sunday 6 October – Harvest Festival** This will be celebrated in the church beautifully decorated with sheaves of corn, wonderful flower arrangements and produce. It will be followed by Harvest Lunch in the Village Café. Produce, tinned and dried goods will be given to the Lord's Larder and Home for the Homeless.

**Harvest Messy Church** – A successful gathering of young families was held with the Parable of the Sower as the theme. A collage altar front was created to be used at all the Harvest Thanksgiving services.

**Saturday 7 December – 4.00pm – 6.00pm Christmas Messy Church, West Coker Memorial Hall.** This consists of fun and craft activities with a simple Christmas message, songs and a free meal. All are welcome to come, observe or participate. More details Deborah Wooton, email [childrensworkleader.cokerridge@gmail.com](mailto:childrensworkleader.cokerridge@gmail.com)

**Tearfund** – At our September Benefice Service in St Martin's, West Coker, we welcomed a speaker from Tear Fund, a charity we supported at our Lent Lunch.

**St Peter's Twapia, Zambia** – We have just received wonderful photographs showing the Boy's Brigade celebrating with the musical instruments that they have purchased with monies we raised. We also received a tape of them playing! We have been told that many more young people will now come to church

**Bible Study** – A group meets at 10.30am, in our homes, on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month to study a chosen book. Contact Gillian Smith 862572.

**Benefice Prayers** – are said for half an hour at 11.30am at the church on 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month and at St Martin's on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

**Lectio at Lunchtime** – A quiet Space with God and one another. 12.30pm on Wednesdays for one hour. Details, email [revcaroline\\_oneill@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:revcaroline_oneill@yahoo.co.uk)

**Coker Ridge Benefice has a new website** – [www.cokerridge.org.uk](http://www.cokerridge.org.uk)

St Michael's is still seeking a Church Warden, please contact Rev Colin Simpson if you wish to know more. email [rector42@iclod.com](mailto:rector42@iclod.com) or telephone 862429.

**Christmas Shoebox Appeal** – It's that time of year again! Anyone interested in giving a shoebox full of interesting gifts, please contact Judith Shaw on 863218. Boxes need to be with Judith by the beginning of November.

**All Souls' Service – 3 November 2019 - 4.00pm**

It has been the tradition for over 20 years that we hold a service to remember those we have loved but see no longer, on the Sunday nearest All Souls'. There will be an opportunity to remember our loved ones during the service. If you would like your loved ones names included, please let Rev Colin Simpson tel 862429 email [rector42@iclod.com](mailto:rector42@iclod.com) or me 862834 have details before 28 October.

Monica

**East Coker Carol Service by Torchlight at St Michael's Church Sunday 15 December 6.30pm**

Your favourite carols and lessons at our lovely Church on 15 December 2019 to get you in the mood for Christmas.

Please bring a torch and don't forget to take a look at our Nativity Scene.

See you there at 6.30pm. Full details available soon.

Sandra



## ALL SAINTS' CLOSWORTH

Sunday 22 December 6.30pm - Carol Service

Tuesday 24 December 4.00pm - Nativity – As usual we hope to have a real live Baby Jesus. I hope the young children will come as Angels, Shepherds, Kings or Children from Many Lands. This year, the service will be taken by Rev Caroline O'Neill, but I hope to be there.

For more details or if there is snow or flooding on the day, please phone me. Monica 862834

## Village News

### ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

We have all just about recovered from our Cream Tea deliveries which all went well, and for the first time every box on the National delivery arrived safely and on time. Thank you again to everyone from the village who came along to The Gateway to help us with the packing - it was very much appreciated.

We are now looking forward to our Diva Lunch on 18 October which has been a sell-out for several weeks so all looking good for another fun and successful day.

Jane Donnelly 01935 478409 or [janedonnelly81@outlook.com](mailto:janedonnelly81@outlook.com)

### STAMPS FOR CLIC SARGENT (Cancer & Leukaemia in Children)

A very big 'thank-you' to everyone who saves their used stamps, a huge bagful has been received by the charity.

The Village Café will now accept them, so please save all your stamps for this worthy cause as they are reused to make money for this charity, which funds vital research into childhood cancers.

### THE VILLAGE CAFÉ

Dear all,

Can you believe we will be celebrating 3 years of looking after the little village café on 1 October 2019 🎉.

We are now open again on Sunday (first Sunday in the month); however, in November we are open on Sunday 3rd and Sunday 10th for Remembrance Sunday.

Thank you all for your continuous support Kx

**SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER - Vegetable Peeling Morning** at the Village Café for the Village Christmas Meal. Please contact Keita on-line if you are good at peeling potatoes sprouts etc. and would like to help.

### EAST COKER CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Delighted to say the Christmas Lunch will happen again this year on Sunday 8 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 turkeys and vegetables etc in the kitchen.

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

Will see you there! Di Miskin



## CHRISTMAS EVE @ The Crystal Courtyard – 6.00pm

Carols, Mulled Wine, Hot Chocolate, Stollen and Cookies to celebrate the beginning of Christmas.

Children, please come as Angels, Kings, Shepherds - adults too, if they wish.

All donations will go to the East Coker Pavilion.

## PRYORFEST!

Simon and Elaine would like to thank everyone who attended, performed and donated at the music festival Pryorfest on 31 August 2019.

It was a huge success, raising well over £1,200 for Macmillan cancer support.

Donations are still coming in even now, so a "BIG THANK YOU TO ALL"!

## THE MOBILE LIBRARY

We are very fortunate to still have the Mobile Library visiting East Coker every four 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.

Dates:                      Tuesday 22 October                      Tuesday 19 November                      Tuesday 17 December

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## EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

A very successful day on a hot and sunny Saturday at the end of June when we held our first **Community Lunch at the Village Café**. Lots of stalls, fun and events for us all to enjoy and a buffet lunch provided by Steve and Keita, which we were able to eat in Street Party style and enjoy each other's company. All part of our East Coker Parish wellbeing/loneliness project. We will be doing it again next year, so **Save the Date – 13 June 2020**.

We have fitted new handrails at the Cemetery to make it easier to visit. Thank you to Phil at Design on Iron.

We welcome Richard Comstive as a co-opted member of the Council. Richard's first full meeting will be in the month of October, so good luck Richard and thank you for your interest.



We are still looking for a Councillor for the Wraxhill Ward. Please contact the clerk [clerk@eastcokerparish.com](mailto:clerk@eastcokerparish.com)

The Council have received many complaints about speed restrictions in the village being ineffective. We have consulted Somerset County Council Traffic Management who advise a speed indicator device, but this cannot be installed until we complete a residents' speed watch, similar to the ones in West Coker and East Chinnock which you will be familiar with. We are looking for volunteers to carry out this speed watch; if anyone is interested, please contact the Clerk as above – full training will be available from the Constabulary.

We are in the process of updating the recreational side of the Pavilion to bring the changing facilities up to the sports standard. If you have any ideas for fundraising, please let the Clerk know.

Our Ranger, Karen, is in the village every Wednesday. Please give her a wave and a cup of tea if you can and let us know of any jobs you see that need her expertise. We still have a big problem with litter, and it seems to be the same items every day! If you see any litter on our verges or roads, could you please pick it up and bin it? Thank you. PS Be careful if you have to stop the car to do this, and park safely!

### **Keyford**

The outline planning permission for Keyford was withdrawn at the last minute at the committee stage due to a considerable number of major changes which include a new roundabout onto the A.37 from the northern access.

As a result of this, East Coker Parish Council have joined forces with Barwick and Stoford Parish Councils and hired a traffic consultant to give their views on this new road layout.

The SSDC's revised Local Plan is showing a preferred option to build 265 houses south of the Keyford development. As a result of this, we have submitted detailed comments to the SSDC as to why we believe this is an unsuitable development in this location.

Visit our website for full information on forthcoming events, Councillors and contact details. [www.eastcokerparish.co.uk](http://www.eastcokerparish.co.uk)

### **AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE**

We've had a complaint regarding speeding vehicles on Sandhurst Road as you leave Yeovil heading into East Coker so it's a reminder, again, to stick to the relevant speed limits, in this case it still is **30mph**.

If anyone is interested in finding out about Community Speed Watch which is where local Volunteers can help with regards to this, please let me know.

More advice is available on the Avon and Somerset Police Website, or stop us and speak to us when you see us out and about.

Regards, **Fiona Wilson** PCSO 8380

Neighbourhood Policing Dept | Avon and Somerset Police  
Yeovil Police Station, Horsey Lane, YEOVIL, Somerset BA20 1SN  
**Tel** 101 | Ext **Mob** 07889659261

Email [fiona.wilson@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:fiona.wilson@avonandsomerset.police.uk)

[www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk) Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

### **REFUSE COLLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS 2019 AND NEW YEAR 2020**

The Wednesday recycling for Christmas will be on **Friday 27 December 2019**

The Wednesday refuse for New Year will be **Thursday 2 January 2020**

## **WEA COKER BRANCH – covering the Cokers and Hardington Mandeville**

The WEA is a registered charity, founded in 1903, offering everyone the opportunity to learn more about a range of subjects, delivered by well qualified and experienced tutors. We have an interesting collection of courses available through the autumn and winter of 2019 into the spring of 2020. They will all lighten the dark days of winter. We look forward to seeing you.

**'Medicine and Literature in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century'** – 6 weeks from 3 October – 14 November, 2.00pm to 3.30pm, Hardington Village Hall. £33 for the 6 weeks.

**'Gustav Klimt'** – Saturday 5 October, from 10.00am to 3.30pm, held in East Coker Hall. £28 includes lunch.

**'Darwin and Fitzroy'** – Two extraordinary lives linked by a special voyage' – Saturday 16 November, from 9.30am to 1.00pm, Hardington Village Hall. £15 for the day.

**'Key historical influences in English garden design'** – six weeks in 2020 from 16 January to 5 March, from 2.00pm to 3.30pm, held in East Coker Hall. £33 for the 6 weeks.

**'Canals'** – Saturday 8 February 2020, from 10.00am to 3.30pm, held in Hardington Village Hall. £28 includes lunch.

**'Leonardo da Vinci'** – Saturday 7 March 2020, from 10.00am to 3.30pm, held at East Coker Hall. £28 includes lunch.

**To Register – [www.wea.org.uk](http://www.wea.org.uk) or phone 0300 303 3464**

If you would like any further information, please call Gill Evans East Coker on 862703 or Jayne Jones Hardington on 862385

## **THE TRIANGLE**

In previous years, bulbs were lifted as soon as they stopped flowering and new ones planted the following autumn. This year, as an experiment, they have been left in the ground and only a few new varieties, Finland (daffodils), Purple Prince and Cape Cod (tulips) put in this September. Whether or not the 2018 bulbs flower successfully next year remains to be seen.

As usual, bulbs were supplied by Fentongollan Farm which raises most of the new varieties bred at Cornwall's Rosewarne Experimental Horticultural Station, as well as maintaining the historic Rosewarne collection of nearly 200 varieties. Over 250 types of daffodil are cultivated on 170 acres of dedicated farm land.

Kathryn Sturtridge

## **PANSIES! VIOLAS! WALLFLOWERS! CHRISTMAS PLANTS AND MUCH MORE**

I have a wide variety of autumn and winter flowering bedding, with Christmas cyclamen arriving in October and hyacinth bulbs ready in late December.

Contact me, Kate, on 07796991592 or visit my stall at the Preschool Christmas Craft Fair, East Coker Hall, Saturday 16 November.

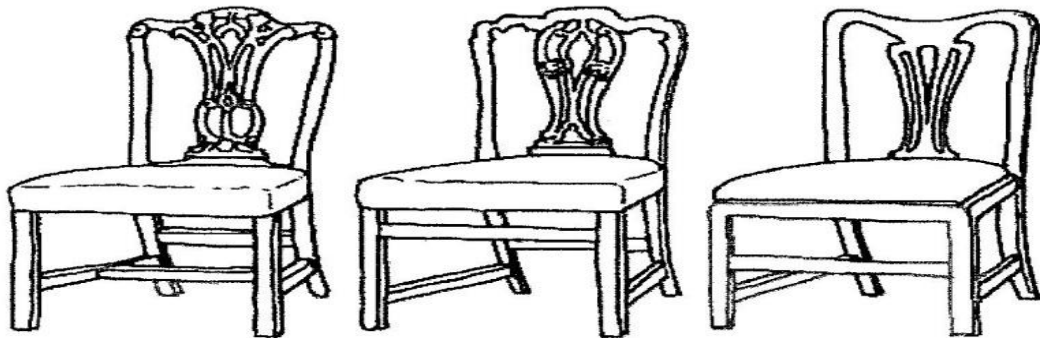
## **NEXT ISSUE**

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **January 2020**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or email [l.lindsay@eastcoker.com](mailto:l.lindsay@eastcoker.com), by **Saturday 4 January 2020 or before if possible**.

# **KEN MARSH**

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Wed 2 Oct	Wine Circle – How to Run a Café	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 6 Oct	Harvest Festival Service	11.00am	St Michael's
Mon 7 Oct	WI – Fun and Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 10 Oct	Gardening Club – Gardens from near & far	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 12 Oct	RBL – Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning	10.00am - 12.00pm	West Coker Hall
Mon 14 Oct	Time To Share – Help @ Home	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 17 Oct	WI – Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 18 Oct	Action Medical Research – Lunch		Haselbury Mill
Sat 19 Oct	The Scouts – Jumble Sale	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 22 Oct	Library	12.40pm - 12.55pm	Helyar Arms
Thurs 24 Oct	WI – Pins, Needles & a Sewing Machine	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 26 Oct	The Scouts – Newspaper Collection	9.00am – 10.30am	Opposite the Café
Sun 27 Oct	The Chapel – Light Party	4.00pm – 6.00pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 28 Oct	Time To Share – Crop Circles with Gil	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 29 Oct	Poetry Group – Competition	7.30pm	Village Café
Wed 30 Oct	Film Flixs – Green Book	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 3 Nov	All Souls' Service	4.00pm	St. Michael's
Mon 4 Nov	WI – Fun and Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 6 Nov	Wine Circle – Montacute	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 10 Nov	RBL – Remembrance Service	10.50am	St Michael's
Mon 11 Nov	Time To Share – Strange Objects	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 14 Nov	Gardening Club – AGM	7.30pm	The Red House
Sat 16 Nov	The Playgroup – Craft Fair		East Coker Hall
Sat 16 Nov	The Chapel – Christmas Craft Evening	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 19 Nov	Library	12.40pm - 12.55pm	Helyar Arms
Thurs 21 Nov	WI – Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 25 Nov	Time To Share – Wiltshire Farm Foods	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 26 Nov	Poetry Group – Australian Poetry	7.30pm	Village Café
Wed 27 Nov	Film Flixs – 'Can you Ever Forgive Me'	7.00pm – 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 28 Nov	WI – From Corscombe to NZ	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 29 Nov	Panto – Robin Hood & Babes in the Wood	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 30 Nov	Panto – Robin Hood & Babes in the Wood	2.30pm & 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 30 Nov	The Scouts – Newspaper Collection	9.00am – 10.30am	Opposite the Café
Mon 2 Dec	WI – Fun & Games	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 4 Dec	Wine Circle – Alveston - Presentation	8.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 7 Dec	Christmas Messy Church	4.00pm – 6.00pm	West Coker Hall
Sat 7 Dec	Vegetable Peeling Day		Village Café
Sun 8 Dec	Village Christmas Lunch	12.00pm & 1.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 9 Dec	Time To Share – Carol Service	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 12 Dec	Gardening Club - Festive Evening	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 15 Dec	Carol Service by Torchlight	6.30pm	St Michael's
Mon 16 Dec	Time to Share – Christmas Lunch		Village Café
Tues 17 Dec	Carol Service – Sutton Bingham	6.30pm	All Saints'
Tues 17 Dec	Library	12.40pm-12.55pm	Helyar Arms
Thurs 19 Dec	WI – Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 22 Dec	Carol Service – Closworth	6.30pm	All Saints'
Tues 24 Dec	Nativity – Closworth	4.00pm	All Saints'
Tues 24 Dec	Christmas Carols - Hot chocolate, Stollen etc	6.00pm	Crystal Courtyard
Wed 25 Dec	Holy Communion Service	11.00am	St Michael's
Fri 27 Dec	Refuse Collection		
Sat 28 Dec	The Scouts – Newspaper Collection	9.00am – 10.30am	Opposite the Café
<b>2020</b>			
Thurs 2 Jan	Refuse Collection		
<b>Sat 4 Jan</b>	<b>Copy for January Newsletter</b>		
Mon 6 Jan	The Players - AGM	7.30pm	East Coker Hall



# The Coker Ridge Benefice

Closworth, East Chinnock, East Coker, Hardington Mandeville, Pendomer, Sutton Bingham & West Coker

6 <sup>th</sup> October	09:15 11:00	Sutton Bingham East Coker	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion - Harvest (followed by Harvest Lunch at East Coker Café,
13 <sup>th</sup> October	08:00 09:15	East Coker Closworth	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion
20 <sup>th</sup> October	11:00 18:00	Sutton Bingham East Coker	Holy Communion (BCP) Evening Prayer (BCP)
27 <sup>th</sup> October	11:00 18:30	East Coker Closworth	Holy Communion Evening Prayer (BCP)
3 <sup>rd</sup> November	09:15 11:00 16:00	Sutton Bingham East Coker East Coker	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion All Souls
10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	08:00 09:15 10:45	East Coker Closworth East Coker	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion Remembrance Service
17 <sup>th</sup> Nov	11:00 18:00	Sutton Bingham East Coker	Holy Communion (BCP) Evening Prayer (BCP)
24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	11:00 18:30	East Coker Closworth	Holy Communion Evening Prayer (BCP)
1 <sup>st</sup> December	09:15 11:00	Sutton Bingham East Coker	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion
8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	08:00 09:15	East Coker Closworth	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion
15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	18:30	East Coker	Carol Service
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	18:30	Sutton Bingham	Carol Service
22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	11:00 18:30	East Coker Closworth	Holy Communion Evening Prayer (BCP)
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	16:00	Closworth	Nativity Service
25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	09:15 11:00	Sutton Bingham East Coker	Holy Communion (BCP) Holy Communion
29 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10:00	Closworth	Benefice Holy Communion Service