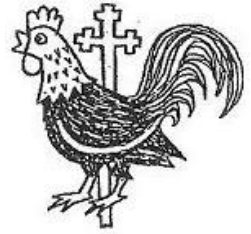


East Coker Society Newsletter



October 2020

Free Issue No 180

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

East Coker Society News

Welcome to our October Edition

East Coker Society has been publishing and delivering a quarterly Newsletter to every household in the Parish of East Coker for 45 years. This amazing achievement has been thanks to the sterling work of the Newsletter team: Lesley Lindsay our current Newsletter Editor, Janet Wells for arranging the printing, and Martin Wells and all our Distributors for delivering directly to you in all weathers.

In more recent years, some of you have helped to reduce our spiralling printing costs by agreeing to receive your copy by email. Even this year, with all the challenges posed by Covid-19, we have been able to produce a Newsletter for you to receive and enjoy by email or access from our website. Unfortunately, we have not been able to produce and deliver any printed copies.

Even with email distribution, we can all help family members, friends and neighbours who may not have access to a computer by printing a copy for them so that they can keep up to date with local news.

We plan to continue with this method of distribution and, when conditions permit, to produce a limited number of printed copies which will be made available at the following venues: Goose Slade Farm Shop, Helyar Arms, St Michael and All Angels' Church, the Village Café and the East Coker Hall.

We hope you will continue receiving our Newsletter. If you do not have access to the internet and are unable to obtain a copy from family, friends or neighbours, or from one of the outlets, please contact us.

If you wish to subscribe to our emails, please contact Lesley at l.lindsay@eastcoker.com with your email address. These personal details are not shared with any other party, in accordance with our Data Protection Policy.

2020 Winter Fayre cancelled

We are sorry to advise you that the 2020 Winter Fayre, originally planned for 24 October, is unable to go ahead due to current restrictions imposed by Covid-19.

We have, however, booked a date for next year, so please make a note in your diaries for **Saturday 23 October 2021**.

Keep safe and well.

Sarah Owen
Secretary
East Coker Society

Village Clubs and Organisations

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER BRANCH

The East & West Coker Branch regret that we are unable to hold our Annual Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning in October due to Covid-19.

Also, because of health risks there will be no House to House collections this year.

This does not mean you cannot get your poppy. Look out for one of our 15 Static boxes, which will be in local shops, public houses, cafés and our schools.

Remembrance Sunday, 8 November. Before the service at St Michael's, the Branch will be holding a small Act of Remembrance, laying a wreath, reading out the names and reciting the Exhortation.

For the **Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall**, the RBL has developed plans to ensure the service will go ahead this year. Together with the BBC, they are creating a pre-recorded programme that will be broadcast on BBC One on Saturday 7 November (it will not be a live event).

The **Remembrance Ceremony** will be held at the Cenotaph in Whitehall on Sunday 8 November, albeit in a reduced and socially distanced form, with a total capacity of approximately 2,000 persons.

Restrictions will also be in place for public viewing. Family and friends wishing to view the March Past are advised to check the latest guidance a week prior to Remembrance Sunday before making any arrangements. Please keep an eye on the Government's website for further information.

After 20 years of dedicated service to the Branch, our Treasurer Clifford Humphreys has announced his retirement. We are now looking for a replacement.

To quote Clifford's words, "It's no longer such an onerous task". If you are that person, please contact me or Branch Secretary Marilyn Smith.

Clifford has offered to assist, with an introduction to the accounts.

Thank-you

David Holland Chairman Tel: 862782 email: d.holland632@btinternet.com

Marilyn Smith Secretary Tel: 863944 email: mazza1944@outlook.com

TIME TO SHARE

Sadly, we have made a decision not to meet until 2021. This is very sad, and many of our members will be missing the regular get-togethers in the East Coker Hall with lots of chat, fun and homemade cake.

But I am afraid we must try and keep everyone safe, especially those of a certain age! Me included! We keep in touch with all our members on a regular basis and see many of them in the Village Café or around the village. At the moment, most of us seem to be OK, which is a huge relief.

We have booked a Christmas Lunch in the Village Café in December but will have to wait and see if this can take place under the new regulations, and the numbers of people that can meet up together. Let's keep everything crossed for that one.

Sandra and Anne



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EAST COKER PLAYERS

The Committee have been trying to organise a social distancing evening to get everyone back together in October. Unfortunately, new restrictions on numbers have now curtailed this for the moment. As soon as we can, the committee will try again.

We hope everyone is keeping safe and well. If you have any news you wish to share with the group, let us know. We can put it on our Facebook page.

Chairperson Anne Hartley 862060 or Secretary Hazel Giddings 429163

EAST COKER WI

Due to the coronavirus, we, like many others, have had to cancel all our meetings to date. However, we did manage to arrange an open air picnic get-together (social distancing) at the village playing fields on a nice sunny day last month.

We took the opportunity to present Ann Jennings with a garden voucher to mark her 50th wedding anniversary.

We have been trying to keep in contact with members of the group to make sure they are all keeping well, and our President, Audrey Spurr, has delivered a posy to all members celebrating birthdays.

Anyone interested in joining the group, please contact the secretary, Ruby Rollo on 475010.

Joyce Pryor

EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

If anyone is interested in the Poetry Group, please contact me via our website <http://www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk> as our meetings are still suspended.

Many thanks

David Cloke

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EAST COKER PRIMARY SCHOOL



It has been so lovely to welcome back all our families to East Coker Primary, many of whom have not been in school since March!

Despite the immense challenges the children have faced over the past six months, they have settled into school brilliantly and have adjusted incredibly well to the new way we do things. There have been lots of little changes to the normal day-to-day things we do, which has had a huge impact on staff workload, the time it takes to do things and the lack of movement around the class and school for the children.

The government accepts that it is extremely difficult to social distance in primary schools in order to be able to teach the children; as a result, we have put many other things in place to reduce transmission risks. Needless to say, there is a lot of hand-washing going on! Children are restricted to work within their 'bubble' in order to reduce transmission. This also means that any confirmed bubble closures will hopefully not affect the whole school.

A typical day for our children now means that many start and end school at different times of the day to try to ease congestion at entry sites, and we have three different playtimes and three different lunchtimes. We have limited access onto the site, which is a challenge when trying to get hundreds of children into school quickly and safely.

In the infant classrooms, we have reduced the amount of furniture to allow for more space, and class seating promotes the children sitting side by side, as per government guidance. In the older classes, the children all have a designated place and the seating is arranged in order to reduce Covid-19 transmissions. This is taking a bit of time getting used to as there are less opportunities for the children to work collaboratively together in the classroom on practical projects as they may have done previously.

Restrictions have also meant that we have had to completely rethink and reorganise many of the things we normally do, such as our new reception children induction, assemblies, special school events, parent evenings, music, sports, forest school, visits and visitors, our ambassador programme and our wonderful buddy system. Thankfully, my very creative staff (and pupils) have come up with some brilliant solutions. They love seeing each other when we do our virtual assemblies!

Despite the significant trials that all schools face in the current climate, which has affected workload and general mental health and wellbeing of our school community, some positive aspects have also emerged.

Generally, our older children are demonstrating far greater independence when working in the classroom, and there is a stronger atmosphere of community within the bubbles. Children are engaging in new friendships and developing new skills.

We have always been a school with a strong commitment to sports, music and the arts and now we have the opportunity to add computing. This is due to government financial support with purchasing Microsoft Teams, which will enable us to teach children virtually and allow the children to collaborate with other bubbles via computers and iPads.

With a current reduction in face-to-face training, meetings and official duties and expectations, staff have had the opportunity to spend more time developing the quality of education. This means staff have had greater opportunities to increase their professional knowledge and skills regarding mental health, specific learning needs and engaging in the latest educational research. As a whole school community, our computing resources, skills and knowledge are growing exceptionally fast and this will be our ongoing focus throughout the year.

These are definitely interesting times in regard to education. The specific experiences that our children have had because of the pandemic will have a strong impact on their future choices and the types of jobs that will be available to them. As always, East Coker Primary will continue to move forward and develop to ensure we give our children the skills and knowledge they need to achieve and make positive contributions to their community and the wider world.

Jane Hesketh-Williams
Head Teacher

"Could you be a Governor at East Coker Primary School"?

There is currently a vacancy for a co-opted Governor on the Board of Governors at East Coker Primary School. We are ideally looking for someone with health and safety and building knowledge to complement the existing skills of the group. Full governor meetings are once a term with three committee meetings during the year as well as the opportunity to be involved with working groups as needed.

If you are interested, or for more information, please contact the Chair of Governors, Jo Bickerton at JBickerton1@educ.somerset.gov.uk or the school office on 01935 862532.

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

Whilst we have had a break in scouting over the summer, we have been very busy inside the scout hut.

We have removed the lino and hardboard from the floor and made two repairs where water had been getting in. The hut has been painted inside and treated outside, and Ruby has painted a mural on the wall in the quiet room.

The roof replacement was delayed but is now back on track. This, combined with the external treatment, will give the whole building a facelift.

We are in the process of returning to scouting. The Beavers will be the first to return with virtual scouting again using Zoom.

The Scout Association 'Back Together Safely' Readiness Level is Amber, under which outdoor activities are preferred (indoor is allowed) with up to 15 young people and up to five leaders with social distancing measures.

We have prepared a Covid-19 risk assessment, and this will be approved through the Scout Association.

We are looking forward to commencing our activities again as soon as it is safe to do so. There is a fire and marshmallows waiting.....

Our Autumn Jumble Sale on Saturday 17 October is cancelled.

Newspaper collections also remain suspended especially as the R-number is rising again. If you have too many, please drop them at Max's house when convenient for you.

David Webber, Group Scout Leader eastcokerscouts@gmail.com



EAST COKER PLAYGROUP

Find us on www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk.

The Playgroup opened its doors for the Autumn Term on 7 September. We follow the Covid-19 guidance and have new operating systems to keep everyone safe and well. The children and families have embraced the changes and settled to the new routines.

This term, we are focusing on Festivals and Colour. Families have kindly donated items to go to the food bank. Children have collected autumn leaves and used them for leaf printing. There was a lot of colour mixing, and the excitement as a new colour emerged from mixing was wonderful to see.

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, 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

We have fully re-opened from 7 September 2020.

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.

Baby & Toddler Session – suspended due to Covid-19. As soon as allowed and safe to do, so we will commence our Baby and Toddler Session.

In normal circumstances, East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup run a Baby & Toddler Session on Thursday afternoon from 1.30pm to 3pm. Pop along and join in the social distancing fun, everyone is welcome.

To find out more information, please visit our Facebook page, East Chinnock Playgroup.

For more information and to register your child/children for either East Coker Playgroup or East Chinnock Under Fives, please contact Kay Storde on 07503 751133 or email ecplaygroup@aol.com.



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The Churches

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

The restrictions on our Church activities as a result of Covid-19 are constantly changing, so it is essential that you keep in touch by means of our weekly Pew Sheet. Please contact Christine if you are not already receiving it.

We have created a monthly pattern of Services at St Michael's for a limited number of people, following all the restrictions and guidelines of the Government and the Archbishops.

- 1st Sunday of month - No Service in St Michael's to allow for attendance at East Coker Chapel Family Service in the East Coker Hall
- 2nd Sunday of month – 11.00am - Holy Communion
- 3rd Sunday of month – 6.00 pm - Evening Prayer
- 4th Sunday of Month – 11.00am - Morning Prayer
- 5th Sunday of month – 8.00am - Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at St Martin's, West Coker

There will be a Holy Communion Service somewhere in the Benefice every Sunday (see the Pew Sheet).

Our **Harvest Thanksgiving Service** will be at 11.00am on 11 October. Dried and tinned food will be most welcome for the Lord's Larder, but no fresh produce can be brought.

Rev'd Colin Simpson was able to have his long awaited shoulder replacement operation, and he will now be recovering from that for about 8 weeks, but we have kind clergy friends who will stand in for him. During the lockdown, he has been streaming Holy Communion Services from his study and these have been accessed by almost 500 people, mostly young folk. This is very encouraging and tells us that our faith is very relevant to our present situation. We are praying for our Bishop Peter of Bath & Wells who is presently undergoing treatment for leukaemia.

Remembrance Sunday on 8 November, 10.45am - when a small party of representatives of the British Legion will lay a wreath on the Church War Memorial and read out the names. This will be followed by the Holy Communion Service.

Christmas Services and the Carol Service will be arranged nearer the time and details will be in the Pew Sheet.

Ministry Team Contacts

- Rev'd Colin Simpson, tel 01935 862429, email rectorcokerridge@gmail.com
- Barbs Hampshire, tel 01935 864574 (office hours 10.00am-1.30pm), email officetokerridge@gmail.com
- Monica Whipp, tel 01935 862834, email m.whipp278@btinternet.com
- Deborah Wootton, working days Monday and Tuesday, 9.00am-5.00pm and Wednesdays, 9.00am-4.00pm, email childrensworkleader.cokerridge@gmail.com

If you are not already receiving the Pew Sheet News with helpful thoughts etc, please contact Christine Vince, the PCC Secretary christine.vince2@btinternet.com or tel 863429.

The Benefice website is cokerridge.org.uk.

Take care and God bless.

Jacqueline

ALL SOULS SERVICE

Colin has asked me to organise and take this service, as he does not expect to be there after sick leave. As there is no 11.00am service on 1 November, the nearest Sunday to All Souls Day, we have decided to have it in the morning subject to Corvid-19. I thought we might be alright but with the latest news I am not very optimistic; but I have decided it's easier to organise now and cancel if necessary, rather than leave any longer.

The service will be one of Thanksgiving for our loved ones. There will be an opportunity to light a candle, and the names of our loved ones will be read out. Please put the name of your loved ones on the list in Church, which will be in place before the end of September. Please include your name and phone number.

I will keep you up to date via the Coker Ridge Pew Sheet, but if you do not see it please phone me on 01935 862834 to check or for further information.

Monica

Closworth Nativity 24 December at 4.00pm

Advance Notice. Subject to Covid-19, I hope we can have our usual Nativity. I am desperate for Angels, Kings, Shepherds and even a real live baby.

Please contact me for details nearer the time. To me, this is the best part of Christmas, and after over 20 years I shall be sad if it does not go ahead

Monica 01935 862934

THE CHAPEL - EAST COKER.

We are again meeting at the East Coker Hall on Sunday mornings at 11.00am, obviously under very different circumstances and restrictions. However, we are still an informal, welcoming and friendly church, adjusting to the government guidelines but still closely following the Bible, meeting together to praise and worship our Great God.

There will be an evening of prayer taking place at the East Coker Hall and around the village on the evening of Saturday 10 October from 8.00pm. Praying specifically for the local and wider community.

Please check out any updates on our website www.eastcokerchapel.com or find us on Facebook. You can email us on ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk.

Village News

PLANTS

Autumn Bedding - I now have pansies, violas and mini cyclamen in stock. These are hardy plants and ideal for pots and tubs.

Closer to Christmas I will also have Hyacinths, Bellis, Dianthus and Wallflowers.

If you would like to order an autumn gift planter (underplanted with spring bulbs), please contact Kate on 07796 991592.

THE VILLAGE CAFÉ

We are open:

- Tuesday to Friday, 10.00am – 4.00pm.
- Saturday, 10.00am – 11.30am.

(Sunday – Monday closed.)

We now have a full menu.

Take care and stay safe.

Contact mobile 07577 448232 or Facebook page, 'Village Café, East Coker'

Kiet 🍷🍷🍷 The Village Café

GOOSE SLADE FARM SHOP

Please note our opening hours are now Tuesday – Saturday, 10.00am – 5.00pm.

Although the shop is currently open, we continue to offer the click and collect ordering service via our website, and also email and telephone orders are still welcome.

To give our customers confidence when shopping, we are continuing to limit numbers in the shop and request masks to be worn in accordance with the government guidelines.

We have extended our shopping area into the tea shop, displaying a wider variety of fresh fruit and vegetables; therefore, our tea shop remains closed for the foreseeable future.

Throughout the lockdown, we were pleased to be able to keep up with the demand for our fresh, home reared meat, fresh bread, local milk, fruit and vegetables and those goodies we all needed! Most items are listed on our website, but we welcome you to visit, to remind you of the extensive range we stock.

Our butchery stocks the meat counter daily, offering homemade sausages, burgers and an array of cuts of our own home reared and grass fed animals. If you can't find what you are looking for, or are unsure of what cut you need, always ask as our butchers will happily assist.

Our Christmas order book is open, not just for our free range geese; we can also supply all your festive meats and treats!

For up to date news, and any changes to opening hours, please check our website thegoosefarm.com or our Facebook page.

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EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

Friday Market

The Friday market will continue whilst there is demand, so please keep supporting this valuable service.

Coker Corona

This communication will continue for the time being but not quite so often. We will continue to keep you updated with all the latest news in the Parish. If you do not receive this by email and would like to get it on a regular basis, please contact the Clerk, clerk@eastcokerparish.com.

Food Bank

The food bank continues, and there is a big demand within our community. The Village Café will receive your donations from Tuesday to Friday, 10.00am till 4.00pm every week.

Dog Poo Bins

Can we please remind people to use the provided dog poo bins and not dispose their filled bags in hedges.

Book Swap

Many of you will have seen the books in the bus shelter. This will continue and at the time of writing we are waiting for shelves to be put up.

Walks

Village walks can now be downloaded from the East Coker Parish Website, <http://www.eastcokerparish.co.uk/rights-of-way>

Village Ranger

Karen as ever, has been busy around the village and continues to keep everything looking neat and tidy. 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.

If you see anything that needs Karen's attention, please contact Chairman B Sugg, 07907 621106 (no calls after 5.00pm or at the weekend, please).

Parish Council

The Parish Council currently has two vacancies, one for Wraxhill Ward and one for East Coker ward. So, if you feel you can give up a few hours each month to help make important decisions which affect the Parish, please send a letter of intent to clerk@eastcokerparish.com.

Parish Clerk

The Parish Clerk (Jude Heggarty) works on a Tuesday and Thursday and she can be contacted by phone 01935 863778 on these days (office hours) or emailed on clerk@eastcokerparish.com.

Visit our website for full information on forthcoming events, Councillors and contact details, www.eastcokerparish.co.uk

AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE

The police contacts are as follows:

- Georgie Crittenden, PC 1818 is still the beat manager.
- Matt Shire, PCSO 8658 is now the Support Officer for the area.

Yeovil Neighbourhood Policing Team, Avon and Somerset Police, Yeovil Police Station, Horsey Lane, Yeovil, Somerset, BA20 1SN.

Tel 01935 402289 | 62289

Mob 07889 655094

Email georgina.crittenden@avonandsomerset.police.uk

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

Georgie Crittenden Police Constable 1818

BONFIRES - from SSDC website

“Coronavirus (COVID-19): A message on bonfires during stay at home measures

It is understood that bonfires can be a quick and easy way of getting rid of garden rubbish. However during the current Covid 19 crisis we are asking that you do not have any further bonfires. While we are largely confined to our properties we are likely to suffer higher levels of nuisance from activities such as bonfires so it is important that we all take responsibility to ensure that such nuisances do not happen.

Please be aware that people suffering from respiratory conditions including Covid-19 will be adversely affected by smoke. It could make their symptoms far worse meaning that they need to be hospitalised putting further strain on the NHS.

Alternatives:

- Most garden waste can be composted into a useful soil conditioner, saving you the cost of buying commercial products.
- Store the garden waste, turning it regularly. This will enable the waste to dry so that it can be transported to your nearest Household Waste Recycling Centre when restrictions are lifted.”

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **January 2021**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay at l.lindsay@eastcoker.com by **5 January 2021 or sooner if possible**.

PS: There is no quarterly diary in this issue.