

East Coker Society Newsletter



October 2025

Free Issue No 200

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Treasurer and Distributor: Martin Wells
Newsletter Editor

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East Coker Society News

Our 200th edition!

This is a record year for East Coker Society. It is 50 years since our formation, and this issue is the 200th edition of our Quarterly Newsletter.

So, it is with regret we announce that Lesley Lindsay has decided to step down as Newsletter Editor. Lesley has served as Editor for many years and was also Secretary for a period of time. She has been instrumental in diligently reminding our contributors of the copy date, collecting and collating a wealth of material and responding to all manner of queries.

During Lesley's tenure, the Newsletter has evolved from its printed copy format and distribution to around 800 homes in the Parish. The advent of email and introduction of our website enabled wider circulation and helped to save considerable costs. Lesley was in regular contact with village clubs, societies, businesses and organisations to give them the opportunity of publishing their news and events to everyone who signs up to receive the Newsletter by email or via our website.

Printed copies are still made available at Goose Slade Farm Shop, the Helyar Arms, St Michael and All Angels' Church, the Village Café and East Coker Hall in January, April, July and October.

We are now looking for a replacement Editor to ensure that we continue to provide this essential communication. If you feel able to assist, please contact the Secretary.

Sarah Owen, Secretary, East Coker Society

Lesley writes, "It's been a great privilege to be the Society's Newsletter Editor, I always intended to sign off at the 200th edition. I would like to thank all the contributors and distributors over the years without whom the Newsletter would not have continued."

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in January 2026. Copy, please, to editor@eastcoker.com by 6 January 2026 or sooner if possible.

Village Clubs and Organisations

EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

We invite new members and old to a new programme of delights:

- **Wednesday 1 October** - Quiz Nic.
- **Wednesday 5 November** - Sailing the Atlantic - Giles Harvey.
- **Wednesday 3 December** - Beer tasting - Cerne Abbas Brewery, plus Bread and mince pies competition followed by Bread and Cheese Supper.
- **2026 Wednesday 24 January** - Burns Night-themed Party.

All welcome, meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm at East Coker Hall, unless otherwise advised.

Sarah Rashley



Poppy Appeal 2025



Coffee Morning

Saturday 18th October

at the West Coker Commemoration Hall

10:30 - 12:00

Entrance £3.00.

Come along and support a truly worthwhile cause. Enjoy a friendly atmosphere and help raise funds to support veterans and their families.

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EAST COKER WI

We welcome all new members, young or old, aiming to create a bond between the ladies of East Coker. We meet at East Coker Hall at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated in our programme.

We have recently welcomed a magician and a local lady, Sarah who showed members how to spin wool on the original style spinning wheel. Last month, two members tested the other members to recognise many different cheeses.

We now look forward to our Open Evening on Thursday 30 October, when non-members can join in to experience our friendship and hear a talk on Superstitions. There will also be refreshments. Entry will only be £5.

In November, one of our members will be demonstrating her method of making Christmas cards. And in December we are out for a Christmas meal.

For any further information, please contact secretary, Pauline Gubbins, tel 864430.

Diary dates

Thursday 30 October	7.30pm	Open Evening, Speaker Brian Wright
Thursday 27 November	7.30pm	Making a Christmas card by Chris Cooper
December (tba)		Out for a Christmas Meal.

Joyce Pryor



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EAST COKER POETRY GROUP - Forthcoming events

Meetings are normally held on the last Tuesday of the month in the Village Café, East Coker, BA22 9HY starting at 7.30pm. There is no charge, and parking is available for our evening meetings behind the Café. Anyone with an interest in poetry is welcome.

Note - Our October meeting is the Third Tuesday of the month, not the last Tuesday.

Diary dates

- **Tuesday 21 October** - Gill Barr.
- **Tuesday 25 November** - The Non-Competition 2025

Contact via our website contact form at <http://www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk> for further details about our meetings.

David Cloke, East Coker Poetry

www.eastcoker.com

EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

The last few months have seen our members enjoy a shopping evening and talk at Brimsmore, as well as one on success with houseplants. In July the annual "garden party", held in a member's garden, was enjoyed by those who attended. No meeting was held in August due to the Flower Show. Several of our members entered the Show and were successful, winning 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes, as well as being awarded some of the trophies.

We resumed monthly meetings in September with a very interesting talk on the history of the gardens of Athelhampton House. As we head towards the end of 2025, the programme is as follows:

- **Thursday 9 October** Photography – Beautiful Bugs and more. A presentation by Annette Beardsley
- **Thursday 13 November** Schoolbeanz - Talk by Lara Honor. Followed by the AGM
- **Thursday 11 December** Audio visual Presentation - David Moon

A note about **Schoolbeanz**. This is a gardening club teaching children how to grow vegetables, flowers and how to garden to help nature with plenty of upcycled art and fun, run from their own children's allotment in the village of Chilthorne Domer.

We try to provide a varied programme during the year. We are a friendly lot, always happy to welcome visitors and new members; whether you are interested in gardening, are a complete amateur, have considerable gardening experience or would just like to join a group of friendly, sociable people. *The Propagator*, a free newsletter containing Club news, notes of gardening events, tips, etc is distributed via email, with hard copies available at each meeting for those not on email.

During the growing season, there is a produce stall, stocked by members with plants and produce. Vouchers offering discounts on seeds, seed potatoes, young plants and seedlings are available during January and February, with offers on spring bulbs and over wintering onions and shallots come summer. Bulk order discounts are available to members during January with special order forms for sundry goods, such as compost. Twice a year, there is a growing competition. Day trips are arranged to places of interest. We usually hold a plant sale in May each year.

You do not need to be good at gardening; talks cover a wide variety of subjects. The annual subscription is currently £25, with subs of £2 per meeting. Visitors £5. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, commencing at 7.30pm (doors open at 7.00pm) in East Coker Hall, Halves Lane, East Coker unless otherwise indicated. For further information, please contact Helen Styles 01935 862447. There is a page on the East Coker Hall website for the Gardening Club - if you have access to the web, please do go to <http://eastcokervillagehall.co.uk/> and look at the Gardening Club page. In the meantime, if you wish to speak to us, please phone 01935 862447.

Helen



QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 31st JANUARY 2026
7.30pm at the
East Coker Village Hall, Halves Lane, East Coker

Doors open at 7pm.

Teams: max of 6. £5 per person. BYO food and drink. Raffle.

To book a team please telephone 01935 862447

**All proceeds in support of
East Coker Village Hall.**



EAST COKER FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW

Another successful Show, held on Saturday 16 August at East Coker Hall. It was a pleasure to welcome both regular and new exhibitors – 66 entered, several less than last year, but with a total number of 499 (slightly up on last year) entries in the various classes. Despite difficult growing conditions, gardeners managed to put on a good range of exhibits in the vegetable, fruit and flower classes.

It has obviously been an excellent year for tomatoes (heat and sun worshippers!) and apples (which have probably benefitted from last year's rain). Flowers had noticeably suffered from the heat. Although fewer entered the children's classes exhibits were imaginative and skilfully done. Entries in the "Homecrafts" section were considerably up on 2024. I cannot recall so many entries in the jam, jellies, chutney and pickled vegetable classes. "Arts and Crafts" classes were well supported. "Photography" entries were down. Sadly, entries in the "Floral Art" classes were significantly down. Although this is called floral art, basically it is arranging flowers in a container of some description. We aren't looking for floristry standards – just something attractive and a bit of imagination - please do think about entering.

Having reviewed the wine classes in 2024, to include homemade cordial and homemade spirit, it was pleasing to note that, again, entries have increased.

EAST COKER FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW TROPHY WINNERS 2025

Trophy	Winner	Total points
Maudsley Silver Challenge Cup for most points in show	Annette Beardsley	64
Archie Neville Memorial Cup for most points in Fruit & Vege Section	Peter Cameron	31
League of Friends Cup for most points in Flower section	Annette Beardsley	44
Ralph Eacott plaque Best vase of dahlias	Linda Mayne	
Pittard Rose Cup for 5 roses	Mary Lamonby	
Mrs Newman Cup for Gladioli	Kirstie Rawles	
Jane Harvey Pot Plant Salver	Annette Beardsley	
Don White Challenge Cup Best fuchsia in show	Annette Beardsley	
Molly Kettlewell Herb Cup	Jackie Glover	
Miss Keefe Cup Most points in Floral Art	Linda Mayne	20
Drake Memorial Cup Most points in Homecraft	Debbie Raines	38
Eileen Doye Memorial Cup Best jam	Brian Geary	
Joan Williams Cup for Most points in Jams & Jellies	Debbie Raines	16
Christine Mead Cup For best Craft	J Fuller	10
Mrs Wilcox Posy Bowl Novice Art	Barbara Raison	5
Society Photographic Trophy	Helen Broom	12
John Whittock Memorial Challenge Cup For judge's favourite (photo)	Helen Broom	
Olive Sharman Photographic Award	Charlie Pennock	
East Coker Gardening Club Cup Children's classes – under fives	Harper Taylor	10
Gloria Mead Cup Children's classes – 6-9 years	William Maulkin	11
Miss E B Drake Challenge Cup Children's classes – 10-15 yrs	Charlie Pennock	10
Doreen Bates Cup for most points in children's classes	Harper Taylor	15

Congratulations to you all.

Thank you to everyone who exhibited and to all who visited the Show in the afternoon. Thanks must also be given to those without whom the Show just simply would not happen: the committee members, who have now started work on the 2026 Show; the volunteers who assist with heaving the tables, help to set up, steward, run the raffle and the tombola, organise the refreshments, and many other tasks; the Village Café and Goose Slade Farm for hosting the entry form collection boxes; The Gardens Group who kindly provided the exhibitor and prize cards, the local businesses and groups who advertised in the schedule.

Our thanks also to Sarah Rashley for presenting the trophies and to the owner of Devonshire Cottage for continuing to kindly store the tables.

Date for your diary for next year: **Saturday 15 August 2026** when we very much look forward to welcoming you again. It would be good to surpass the number of exhibitors in 2019, when 105 people entered.

Helen

Young People

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

Over the summer break, we have painted half of the outside of the Scout Hut as the weather takes a toll on the wood. We also emptied one end of the stores, repaired a section of the wall, made some new shelves, checked the condition of the equipment and tidily put back only the good stuff.



The scouts started this term with kayaking at Sutton Bingham, where there was just about enough depth of water to practice capsizing! We've also already been to the woods for fire lighting to cook twists and s'mores. This term's activities include letterboxing on Dartmoor, a Day Hike, County Challenge and a Survival Weekend.

Jason, Robert and Henry have all achieved their Gold Chief Scout's Awards. This is a great achievement and is the result of many activities and events across four years.

The Cubs have made incredible catapults and are looking forward to a busy term of activities. Charlie was awarded his Young Leader Award during the Explorer Moot. Lucas, Robert and Henry have all completed Module A – the start of the Young Leader journey.

We currently have no Beaver section (6-8 years old) as we have no adult team members to run this section. We would love to be able to re-open this section and welcome contact from anyone who feels they could help us.

Thank you for all your support.

David Webber, Group Scout Leader

eastcokerscouts@gmail.com



1st East Coker Scout Group

Date for your diary

The next Quiz will be on **Saturday 21 March 2026 – 20th Annual East Coker Village Quiz**. The quiz will start at 7.00pm. More details to follow closer to the time.

The Quiz Gopher

eastcokerscouts@gmail.com



EAST COKER PRIMARY SCHOOL

Respect, Determination & Courage, Compassion & Collaboration, Independence & Creativity

Once again, we have had a great start to our new year. It has been so lovely to see all the children after a well-earned summer break. We also welcomed our new Reception parents and new families to East Coker Primary School in September. The children in Reception have settled in so well it feels like they have been in school far longer than they have.

We have had a busy summer holiday making improvements to the school which we are unable to do at other times in the school year without disrupting learning. We have had several classrooms decorated, a completely new floor has been put down in Eagles class, a new gazebo has been built for Reception thanks to funds from the PTFA, as well as a really good tidy and clear out.

As is usual for us over the summer holidays, we also held our own Summer Club for the first two weeks of the summer break. This was well attended, and the children enjoyed the freedom of having the school to themselves. They particularly enjoyed the water fight!

This term, we have a brand-new catering service from FIGS. The children now have the option of a lighter meal such as panini's, baguettes and soup! The variety on offer and the quality of the hot meals is fantastic. The children have been very complimentary.

We have an exciting term ahead. Our Year 4s went to the Bristol Hippodrome to see 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe' and our Year 6 pupils will be going on a week-long residential to Okehampton in October. Some year groups will also be attending Forest School and Swimming this term, and our Choir will be very busy performing at a few extra events this year.

This year, we will be looking at the following themes: Treasure Hunters, Super Structures and Festivals. This term, the children will be finding out about William Dampier and Ancient Egypt as well as completing a local study, finding out about the UK and its cities, and naming key features such as our oceans and continents. We will be developing our understanding of mark making and drawing as well as working with clay.

Kingfishers Club, our breakfast and after school club, has had a very successful first year with numbers going from strength to strength. This week, the children enjoyed having bacon butties for breakfast and after school they have enjoyed fruit kebabs, pizza bagels and cheese toasties! We are open from 7.30am to 6.00pm Monday to Friday.

We are also delighted to share with you our **New Reception drop-in open morning on Saturday 4 October from 10am-12pm for parents looking at schools for September 2026**. Staff will be on hand to say hello and give you a brief introduction to what life is like at East Coker School. We also offer personal tours by the children and a chat with the head teacher during school hours. To book a tour, please contact the school office on 01935 862532.

Come Join Us at the School's Official Onsite Breakfast & After School Club Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 6pm at...

East Coker Primary School's Kingfishers Breakfast & After School Club



**PHONE THE SCHOOL DIRECTLY TO BOOK:
01935 862532**

Breakfast Provision:
7:30am to 8:45am - £4.50. This includes a breakfast if pupils arrive before 8:15am.

After School Provision:
3:30pm - 4:30pm - £4.50. 3:30pm - 5:30pm - £8.00 3:30pm - 6:00pm - £10.00
This will include a snack and drink

All Day Discount
7:30am - 8:45am & 3:30-6:00pm - £12.50

The school is currently able to accept childcare vouchers from: Eden Red, Care-4, Government Tax Free Childcare vouchers. Please do ask if you use a different voucher scheme.



We are delighted to share with you that we have been selected to be a Lead School for Somerset Music at the Octagon Music Hub. This is a very exciting opportunity for us to share and extend our music provision.

We also hope to restart our gardening club this year following a grant from the Somerset Garden Trust, which we have used to purchase a greenhouse and some bits and pieces for our garden beds. Our aim is to support our cooking curriculum by using some of the produce/herbs in our lessons. If you would like to offer any help, please do let the school know. We are looking for keen gardeners to work with our children or anyone who can donate vegetable plants and herbs.

If you feel you would like to offer your expertise to support the school in any way, we would be more than happy to hear from you. We welcome adults to support with hearing children read and any gardening gurus who can offer some time each week to work with our gardening ambassadors.

If you would like to help at a more strategic level, we have a vacancy in our governing body. Meetings are once every three months at the school. Here we discuss the strategic direction of the school alongside school improvement.

If you are interested in any of the events or would like to offer any support, please contact the school office on 01935 862532 or send us an email at office@eastcokerprimary.org, or you can view our website and Facebook pages.



School Website



East Coker Primary School
Facebook page



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EAST COKER PLAYGROUP - Follow us on Facebook: East Coker Preschool

Autumn term has begun and the playgroup open to welcome new and returning families. The site looks a little different with the modernisation work on the Pavilion well underway. There are lots of diggers and the progression of a new build is exciting to watch. The children have been invited to place items in a time capsule to be concealed within the building! We will not be placing the pumpkin that has grown over the summer in the time capsule! Or the yummy banana muffins that the children made to take home this week. Perhaps a favourite small toy or the playdoh recipe will go in the time capsule? The decision will be made by the whole group together.

Our three stick insects have become five after successful hatching of eggs over the summer. Sharp eyes are needed to spot them, camouflaged so well among the leaves of their home. We look forward to an Autumn term full of learning, discovery and fun.

Our next fundraising event will be on
Saturday 15 November 2025, 11am-3pm
we are holding a Christmas Market in East Coker Hall.
There will be a variety of stalls, a local opportunity to start the festive shopping!
The playgroup will be holding a raffle and
serving refreshments including breakfast butties, cakes and light lunches.
Entry is **free**.

Children can join us from the age of 2 years. We accept Somerset Council 2-year-old funding, 15 hour Universal Early Years Entitlement, 30 hour Working Families Entitlement, Tax Free Childcare and Childcare Vouchers.

For more information on support with childcare costs, please visit
<https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/childcare-early-years-education>.

This website makes it easy to find out what's on offer, plus lots of other useful information for families.

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

Monday	8.00-9.00-12.00-1.00-3.00-4.00
Tuesday	8.00-9.00-12.00-1.00-3.00
Wednesday	8.00-9.00-12.00-1.00-3.00-4.00
Thursday	8.00-9.00-12.00-1.00-3.00-4.00
Friday	8.00-9.00-12.00-1.00-3.00-4.00

Children staying for lunch need to bring a packed lunch.

Baby and Toddler Session @ East Coker Playgroup
Friday 9.30-11.00 £2.00 or a donation/ family

We have a playroom full of resources and outdoor space to facilitate playing and learning.

Pop along and join us for play and chat.

To find out more information, please visit our Facebook page, East Coker Preschool.

For more information and to register your child/children for East Coker Playgroup, please contact us on 07503 751133 or email office.ecplaygroup@gmail.com.

Eve Dudden

The Churches

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCH

Our regular pattern of parish and benefice services carried on through the hot summer. A highlight was the wonderfully bonkers Pet Service in August. As well as countless dogs of all shapes and sizes (all impeccably behaved), we were joined by an 85-year-old tortoise. A truly blissful occasion and a great opportunity to celebrate and give thanks for the special part our pets and animals play in our lives.

In September, we hosted the Parnham Voices, a Beaminster based Capella choir, for a tea time concert. We were the 4th destination on their Annual Choral Safari, raising funds for Julia's House Children's Hospice. We raised £179 for the charity from donations and takings for teas and coffees. Thanks to everyone who supported the event.

This summer, the church was the venue for a baptism of Averil Gullis and for a joyous and sumptuous service to bless the marriage of Hector Coles and his lovely wife Natassja.

The summer brought sadness too. Jacqueline Clough, a lay worship assistant, a dear friend to so many of us, and a stalwart of the church community, died after a short illness. I write this update the evening before her thanksgiving service and, as a fitting tribute to someone who gave so much to the church, our talented and creative team of flower arrangers have decked St Michael's out beautifully in readiness.

Another villager whose life was inextricably linked to St Michael's, Bob Mead, also left us this summer. As well as being village treasures, Bob and Gloria gave so much to the church and were such an important part of the worshipping community. Bob's funeral, which as I write was only a few days ago, was an unforgettable occasion. Borne to the church and then to the cemetery on a trailer pulled by his first tractor, his coffin was adorned with a wreath that included carrots and parsnips as well as beautiful flowers, alongside his trademark deerstalker.

On 28 September, the Sunday closest to the feast day of St Michael (Michaelmas), we celebrated our patronal festival. The main event was choral evensong with Sherborne Chamber Choir. It is rarely that choral evensong is sung in a parish church, and we are so pleased to have had such a distinguished choir visiting for the occasion.

Future dates for your diary:

- **12 October - Harvest Festival.** The service, which starts at 11.00am, will be followed by a Bring and Share Lunch to which all are welcome.
- **9 November – Remembrance Sunday.** The RBL sponsored Annual Service of Remembrance – starting at 10.45am. Stay for coffee.
- **21 December – Carol Service.** Our traditional Candle-lit Service of Lessons and Carols – 6.00pm. Followed by gluhwein and mince pies.
- **Christmas Day – family service.** 10am. Bring your favourite and noisiest present!

You are always welcome at St Michael's, whether for some time of quiet reflection, or to join us for a service.

Information about services can be found online on our website – www.ecchurch.co.uk, on 'A Church Near You' website <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11025>, on the notice boards in the church porch and in the paddock, or via the Benefice Newsletter which is emailed out on a weekly basis. To get on that distribution, email the PCC Secretary, Christine Vince, on christinevince2@btinternet.com.

We also post news and notices on Facebook – St Michael's Church has a page www.facebook.com/East.Coker.Church which you can like/follow to stay up to date. If you have any specific questions or concerns, please get in touch on info@ecchurch.co.uk.

For baptisms, weddings, funerals and pastoral care, contact the Benefice Coordinator, Barbs Hampshire, on 01935 864574 or officecokerridge@gmail.com (office hours Wednesday 9.30am – 4.00pm).

Toffer Beattie, Churchwarden

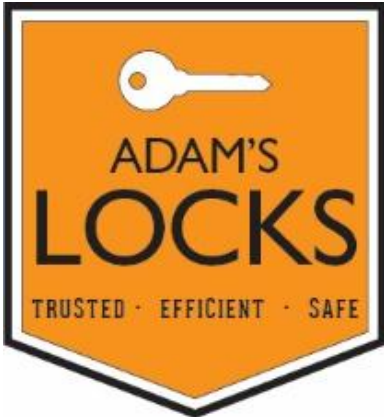
THE CHAPEL AT EAST COKER HALL

Café Church is always on the first Sunday of the month, where fresh coffee, croissants and bacon rolls are provided. We meet at East Coker Hall, 11.00am on Sunday mornings. We are always happy to welcome anyone to join us, even if just to see what goes on!

Our services are relaxed and informal and always followed by tea and coffee. We have a variety of talks, our own worship band, and a large number of children of all ages in the 'Kids Church'.

Check out our website <https://www.eastcokerchapel.com/> for more information and find us on Facebook for information about upcoming meetings and events. You can also contact us by email on ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk even if you are just curious about Christianity and perhaps want to meet with someone to learn more.

Phil Dunning



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Village News

MOBILE LIBRARY

The Mobile Library visits East Coker outside the Helyar Arms on Tuesdays every 4 weeks. The time of visit has changed to 1.50pm – 2.10pm. There is a wide selection of books – fiction, non-fiction, large print, DVDs and audio books for adults and children. The stock is regularly refreshed, and you can order books there or online.

To use this valuable service, you must be a member of Somerset Libraries, so remember to bring your membership card. You can join by filling in a membership form with proof of your name and current address, for example, utility bill or a driving licence.

The next visits are: **Tuesday 11 November** **Tuesday 9 December**

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GOOSE SLADE FARM SHOP

Our Farm Shop is as usual full of delicious food as well as our well stocked meat fridges with our homemade burgers, sausages, steaks and joints from our home-produced animals. Our butchers are always happy to provide the cuts you would like.

We have an array of good home-made delights, made on the premises including our very popular meringue roulades, lemon or lime crunch, varying flavours and sizes of quiches and unusual, tasty traybakes to name but a few.

Open Tuesday to Saturday 10.00am – 5.00pm, 01935 863735 www.thegoosefarm.com.

Liz & Phil

EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

Keeping our Parish beautiful

As we enter into the latter part of summer, with the amount of rain and sun we have had – all our hedgerows and lawns are growing like crazy!! At our latest meeting, we had a discussion on some of the overgrown hedges and pathways within our parish. Bird nesting months are typically between March and August, so after 1 September, could we please ask that if your hedges back onto public roads, pavements or pathways, they are cut back to allow pedestrians to pass and vehicles and cyclists to be seen.

Also, if you have a grass verge outside of your property, if possible, could you keep it mown, weeded and tidied.

Thank you very much for continuing to be part of keeping our parish a beautiful place to live all year round!

We will be getting the parish council hedges trimmed over the next few weeks, so please bear with the operatives who may have to block the lanes for a short time.

Village Picnic

A big thank you to the group of Parishioners who organised the successful Village Picnic at the Pavilion grounds. Despite the weather, it was well attended. We were most appreciative of the receipt of £500 from the event's fundraising. This will be put towards our Pavilion Modernisation project.

100 Club

There is still time to enter the 100 club, the proceeds of which will go towards the modernisation of the pavilion at Long Furlong Lane.

It is £10 per ticket, to be paid for by a monthly standing order, running for a minimum of 12 months. The prizes are 1st prize - £120, 2nd prize - £60, 3rd prize - £20, and already there have been 15 prize winners.

So, if you are prepared to have a bit of a flutter, in the name of a good cause, please do visit <https://eastcokerparish.com/?s=100+club> or email Cllr Wintersgill sandi@eastcokerparish.com or the Parish Clerk Clerk@eastcokerparish.com for further information.

Meeting reminder

Can we remind all Parishioners that our monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.00pm in the Pavilion, Long Furlong Lane, and all are welcome to attend whether you would like to speak or simply listen to what your council are up to! Please drop the Clerk (Jude) a quick line onclerk@eastcokerparish.com should you wish to speak about any matters.

Cemetery works

If you have been in or around the Cemetery, you will have noticed a lot going on recently. There have been some tree works and clearance of overgrowth. Licences to have badgers removed from the land and more works to overgrowth and trees to follow. New trees will be planted that will complement the use of the land. This is all in aid of making sure we can have more plots in the cemetery in years to come.

Parish Council Live Nativity

After the success of last year's Live Nativity, we will be putting on the performance of this again this Christmas. A date for your Diaries for this is **Sunday 7 December 2025**.

Defibrillator

There is now a defibrillator at the Café for use in the village. Please note this is only accessible when the Café is open. The Café opening times are Tuesday- Friday 9am-4pm and Saturday 9am-12pm.

SID Update for Yeovil Road 6 – 18 September

Reading the following, it is important to remember that the primary purpose of the SID (Speed Indicator Device) is to remind road users of their speed when entering the potentially hazardous area of our village. The consequences of speeding are still the responsibility of the driver. Those who chose to ignore the reminder are a minority of road users, but it only takes one inconsiderate individual to cause a fatality.

In addition, the SID's settings must be 30mph although this is rarely a safe speed in much of the village area. Given the location by Tellis Cross, many of the vehicles would have been slowing for the turn in, for oncoming traffic or the reduced 20mph school zone. Similarly, those leaving Tellis Cross would have given a 'false' reading. Without these factors skewing the results, the speeds for many would be higher.

During this time, 7,381 vehicles entered and 10,831 left the village along this route. 90% of inbound and 80% of outbound were below 30mph. Incoming, and scarily 132 outgoing, vehicles were recorded over 40mph. The speed limit only changes to 40mph after regular housing and the Longlands Lane turn for very good reason, but the importance of this is clearly lost on 1 in 5 drivers who are already over 30mph as they pass Tellis Cross. Highest recorded speeds are not openly shared as this can encourage some towards recklessness, but they are recorded at times of day when plenty of others would be around, for example, afternoon school and early evening.

20mph School Zone

With the start of the new school year, it is worth noting that when in operation the 20mph extends from one sign to the next, that is, leaving the village on Yeovil Road cars should do 20mph up to Tellis Cross if the lights were flashing on the way in. We are still awaiting an additional flashing 20mph school sign from the County Council on the approach from Higher Burton, but this is on the way.

Cllr Carter-Uren

ART CLASSES

WITH ARTIST & LECTURER
ELEANOR FARR MA

Learn to draw & paint

Beginners and intermediates welcome.

*We'll work through all the fundamentals of drawing
and painting together. You'll learn techniques to
inspire you and create beautiful artworks, whilst
experimenting with new materials.*

All in fun and friendship

NEW TERMS BEGIN JANUARY 2026:

TUESDAY 6TH JAN 13:05 - 15:05

WEDNESDAY 7TH JAN 13:30 - 15:30

SATURDAY 10TH JAN 10:00 -12:00

£190 FOR A 10 WEEK COURSE

EAST COKER VILLAGE HALL

Book early to avoid disappointment. Places limited.

To book your place please contact Ellie Farr 07745216811
enquiries@eleanorfarr.gallery



QUARTERLY VILLAGE DIARY October 2025 – January 2026

Wed 1 Oct	Wine Circle – Quiz-Nic	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 4 Oct	East Coker Primary School – New Reception drop-in morning	10.00am – 12.00pm	East Coker Primary School
Thurs 9 Oct	Gardening Club – Photography - Annette Beardsley	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 12 Oct	Harvest Festival – Bring & Share	11.00am	St Michael's Church
Sat 18 Oct	RBL Coffee Morning – Entrance £3	10.30am -12.00pm	West Coker Commemoration Hall
Tues 21 Oct	Poetry Group – Gill Barr	7.30pm	The Village Cafe
Thurs 30 Oct	WI – Open Evening – Speaker Brian Wright	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 5 Nov	Wine Circle – Sailing the Atlantic	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 9 Nov	Remembrance Sunday Service	10.45am	St Michael's Church
Tues 11 Nov	Mobile Library	1.50pm – 2.10pm	The Helyar Arms
Thurs 13 Nov	Gardening Club – 'Schoolbeanz' Talk – Lara Honor, followed by AGM	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 25 Nov	Poetry Group – The Non-Competition	7.30pm	The Village Cafe
Thurs 27 Nov	WI – Making Christmas Cards, by Chris Cooper	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Dec TBA	WI - Christmas Meal		
Wed 3 Dec	Wine Circle – Beer Tasting Competition – Cerne Abbas Brewery, plus bread and mince pies competition followed by Bread and Cheese Supper	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 7 Dec	Parish Council – 'Live Nativity Performance'		
Tues 9 Dec	Mobile Library	1.50pm – 2.10pm	The Helyar Arms
Thurs 11 Dec	Gardening Club – Audio Visual Presentation by David Moon	7.30pm	East Coker
Sun 21 Dec	Candle-lit Service of Lessons and Carols	6.00pm	St Michael's Church
Thurs 25 Dec	Christmas Day - Christmas Family Service	10.00am	St Michael's Church

Art Classes January Term

Tuesday 6 Jan 13:05 – 15:05
Wednesday 7 Jan 13:30 – 15:30
Saturday 10 Jan 10:00 – 12:00

Please note

Copy for the January 2026 Newsletter by 6 January or before if possible.