

# East Coker Society Newsletter



April 2015

Free Issue No 158

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## East Coker Society News

### EAST COKER SOCIETY AGM

Our AGM will take place at 7.00pm on Wednesday 27 May in the Dampier Room of the East Coker Hall. This is not just for Committee Members. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### ADVANCE NOTICE OF WINTER FAYRE

East Coker Society's popular Winter Fayre will be held on Saturday 24 October from 2.00pm to 4.00pm in the East Coker Hall. Potential stallholders are invited to reserve their tables early by contacting Sarah Owen tel 862218

### TOUR OF SOMERSET HERITAGE CENTRE

As reported in the January Newsletter, we have been invited to visit the Somerset Heritage Centre in Taunton. This is in recognition of the contributions made to safeguard the Helyar and Walker-Heneage archive collections.

The visit will include a tour behind the scenes of the archive service and the Museum stores, with documents from the collection on display in the strong rooms.

If you would like to join this visit, please contact Sarah Owen for further details.

Sarah Owen (Secretary) tel 862218

### VILLAGE EVENTS DIARY – PLEASE USE IT

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

## Village Clubs and Organisations

### EAST COKER HALL CHARITABLE TRUST - NOTICE OF AGM TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 11 MAY 2015

The Annual General Meeting of the Trust will be held on Monday 11 May 2015 in the Dampier Room of the East Coker Hall, Halves Lane, commencing at 7.30pm.

Any organisation wishing to have a representative on the Committee should apply in writing to the Secretary, Mrs H Styles, 21 Mill Close, East Coker BA22 9LF. Applications should be submitted at least two weeks before the meeting.

All residents of East Coker Parish aged 18 years and over are eligible to attend the meeting.

## BONFIRES

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

## EAST COKER MONTHLY CHARITY COFFEE MORNINGS

The year has started well with the January coffee morning generating £184 for East Coker Scouts. In February, the event was also very successful and a total of £474 was collected for the RNLI.

The forthcoming events are for

- Help for Heroes on 24 April
- South Somerset MIND on 29 May
- Children's Life Line on 26 June

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

Cherry Sowerbutts 863313; Penny Marpole 863055

### Thank you

On behalf of the RNLI, thank you to everyone who supported the coffee morning in February. It was very successful with 76 people enjoying the event at the Forester's Arms. In total, £474.35 was raised which will be a valuable input to the RNLI's lifesaving activities – which currently average 23 people rescued every day.

Peter Burrows, Chairman, Yeovil & District RNLI

## TIME TO SHARE

### Diary Dates

Monday 13 April – Talk on Old Yeovil  
Monday 27 April – Annette's Icelandic Talk  
Monday 18 May – John Burgess "Behind the Microphone"  
Monday 1 June – Healthwatch Care Forum  
Monday 15 June – Outing Bristol Blue Glass (often spare places)  
Monday 29 June – Keep Fit

We also meet regularly for lunch and coffee at various places in and around East Coker. These small get-togethers are great and we have a good time catching up on news and meeting old friends. Everybody is welcome. Just give me a ring to find out where and when.

We also meet every Tuesday morning at 10.00am at the Courtyard Cafe for Wi-Fi training, how to use the internet and how to send pictures to your family. It is a happy, interesting hour or two, and we all learn something every week, even if it is only about each other.

**We desperately need new members.** Please come along to a Monday afternoon meeting just to see how we operate. It is a lot of fun, always interesting speakers, and a guarantee I will always get something wrong, which is a big joke!

See you soon. Sandra Snelling 862162 Mobile 07717723448 email [sandra.snelling@googlemail.com](mailto:sandra.snelling@googlemail.com)

## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION EAST & WEST COKER

The East/West Coker Branch of the Royal British Legion will be holding their Annual Cheese & Wine evening on Friday 17 April 2015 at the East Coker Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets £5, to include food and a glass of wine, available on the door. There will also be our usual Grand Draw. We hope that all members and friends will be able to join us on this special evening with good food and wine.

Our work that we do for our Service personnel and their families is of vital importance, not only within the Community, but countrywide also.

## Dates for diaries:

Friday 8 May – VE Day 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**Secretary** Marilyn Smith 863944; **Membership** Caroline Field 863271;

**Treasurer** Clifford Humphreys 862242;

**Committee** Russell Chatwin 414080; Wendy Weston 862472; Barbara McAulay 423871

Thank you all for your continued support. David Holland – Chairman 862782 [d.holland632@btinternet.com](mailto:d.holland632@btinternet.com)

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## EAST COKER VILLAGE QUIZ 2015

The Tenth Annual Village Quiz was held in East Coker Hall on 7 March. Twenty-three teams competed in an evening of questions which tested their knowledge on subjects ranging from Royal Births to Children's Literature. In the interval, an excellent fish-and-chip supper was enjoyed by all.

This year the joint winners were the Basset Allsorts and the Gardening Club teams. A good selection of prizes was generously donated for the raffle which was well supported and contributed strongly to the overall proceeds for the event, which came to a total of £1,118. This will be donated to the charities nominated by last year's winners, Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and East Coker Scouts

Many thanks to all who helped with

the smooth running of the event, and to all who gave prizes for the raffle.

Next year's quiz will be on Saturday 12 March 2016. Make sure you book a place for your team early to avoid disappointment – this year we were oversubscribed and the Hall cannot accommodate more tables!

Martyn and Cherry Sowerbutts 863313

## EAST COKER SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

The Bowls Club meets every Tuesday evening 7.30pm - 9.30pm and Friday afternoons 2.30pm - 4.30pm in the East Coker Hall.

We are a friendly club and are looking for experienced and new players to join us. Tuition can be given to those wishing it, and bowls can be provided for your initial practice. Why not come and see for yourself. There is no age limit for adults.

We also have a junior section, and are looking for young players, minimum age 9 years up to 18. For information regarding the junior section, please contact Mervyn Westlake 863227. For other information, call George Dudden 864222.

D Farrant, Club Chairman

## SAVE EAST COKER

At the Full Council meeting on 5 March, SSDC approved its Local Plan which sets out the Council's strategy for development in South Somerset to 2028. Following discussion of the various stages leading to the final version of the Plan, the councillors voted to "adopt" it although it was notable that a number of Conservatives, including Marcus Fysh, abstained.

This means that the framework for the development of housing and employment land will soon become a legal document which will enable the Council to oppose any proposals which do not fall within the locations specified in the Local Plan.

Having succeeded in getting the number of houses SSDC wanted to develop in East Coker down from their initial 5,000 to 3,800, to 2,500 then 1,600, and finally 800 at Keyford, the community now needs to focus its attention on the Outline Planning Application recently submitted to SSDC by the developer for the site, Charles Bishop.

Following the public meeting in the East Coker Hall, on 25 March, organised by East Coker Parish Council, we hope you will send your comments and objections to the Council so that it can take steps to ensure that the final design of the planning proposal includes modifications to remove the major impacts on the local community, particularly resulting from the extra traffic it will cause in the area.

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

### ECPT contacts

Joe Coles 863146      Martyn Sowerbutts 86331      Richard Vanderpump 864565

Peter Woodford 863633      John Fysh 863963      Sandra Snelling 862162

### Save East Coker Fundraising Update

We have to continue our Fund Raising Campaign to pay off the many loans we received last year. These loans meant that we were able to continue our fight, employ the Barrister and Consultants again, and achieve a reduction in housing numbers and limit the development to Placket Lane.

It could be two years before these loans are repaid. Meanwhile, I hope you will enjoy the many events we have planned and continue to support us when you can. Thank you.

### Fundraising 2015 – Dates for your diaries:

**Saturday 16 May – Wandering Supper** Di Miskin and her team are well on the case with this one. Pre-dinner drinks this year will be at Naish Priory, courtesy of Bronwyn and John Fysh. Joe and Tanya Coles have a busy year with their family, and the chosen date was not great for them. Many thanks Joe and Tanya for allowing us all to enjoy Coker Court. For information, please call Di on 862854.

**Sunday 7 June – Longlands Garden Party, BBQ and Plant Sale** 12.00pm. Plants, Cream Teas and cakes to buy. Courtesy of Fiona and Jason Dobson.

**Saturday 4 July – Village Fete – Tombola** We need bottles please. Any donations gratefully received.

**September** (watch this space for date) – **Afternoon tea at Martyn and Cherry Sowerbutts.** Stalls, Cream Teas.

**16 October – Much requested return of Auction of Promises** at East Coker Hall. We have a few promises already, but need lots more. Please contact me if you have anything that can be auctioned, from holiday homes to babysitting to suppers in your home.

We hope to produce an East Coker calendar for 2016 and some Christmas Cards to be sold at all East Coker events from October onwards. Please could you remember this if you have, or can take, any super photos of the village showing the seasons by beginning of September, please.

We have nothing planned for April so if you fancy holding a coffee morning, let me know. We are ALL willing to help you, and these events are always very well attended.

Thank you, again. Sandra Snelling 862162

## **EAST COKER READING GROUP**

We are a group of (currently) eight people who meet once a month (usually on a Tuesday evening) to talk about the book we have been reading the previous month – unless the book was not very interesting, in which case we talk about anything that comes to mind! As the Library charges reading groups a monthly fee, we, in turn, charge a fee of £1 per month to each member. We are a very easy-going group – if you don't like the book, don't feel obliged to read it! The discussions are always interesting - even on the odd occasion when the book hardly gets a mention!

If you are considering joining the group or wish to have more details of the books we read and what we do, please do contact Kevin Chapman on 07812726853 or 422594 or email [ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk)

## **BURTON BOOK CLUB**

Due to demand for reading groups, we have now formally separated into two groups, reading different books. Burton Book Club (which currently has ten members) meets once a month (usually) on a Wednesday afternoon for one hour.

We currently meet over coffee/tea at Goose Slade Farm Tea Shop. In addition to the £1 per month fee for books, we also put £2 into a 'kitty' to pay for drinks, and, when funds allow, have a 'free' month. Otherwise, what is said about the East Coker Reading Group (see above in the Newsletter) holds good for the Burton Book Club, and the same contact details apply.

## **EAST COKER PLAYERS**

We are pleased to announce that our Spring Production will be two short plays, performed for one day only! Alice in Wonderland (performed by the young players) and Spring Song Singers, held on Saturday 9 May 2015 at 2.30pm and 7.30pm in the East Coker Hall.

Tickets Adults £6; Children £4. To include cake and tea at 2.30pm or Ploughman's Supper at 7.30pm.

Tickets will be available from Tuesday 7 April 2015, tel Vicky 862711, and also from the Courtyard Cafe 'pop-up' box office on Tuesday 21 and 28 April and Thursday 23 and 30 April from 10.00am to 12noon. Why not get a group together and book a table? We look forward to entertaining you.

This year we are fundraising for a new stage extension as our old one has been deemed unsafe. We hope to raise enough before our Pantomime in November. We would like to thank everyone who came to our Bingo Evening and, or, donated prizes.

We welcome new members, and indeed will need more to cast this year's Pantomime. Minimum age is 8 years. Our first read-through will be on Monday 6 July 2015 in the Dampier Room, East Coker Hall at 7.00pm

For further information contact Anne 862060 or Hazel 429163

## **EAST COKER FLOWER SHOW AND WINE FESTIVAL**

The show will be held on 15 August 2015, please start planning ahead.

The Photography Classes are – Class 71 Agriculture; Class 72 Things that make you go Ah!; Class 73 Amusing Sign; Class 74 Bends; Class 75 View through a window; Class 76 4 x Trees.

Floral Art Classes are – Class 43 Nature; Class 44 Button-hole/Corsage; Class 45 Decorated Capital Letter; Class 46 Sparkle; Class 47 Nursery Rhyme.

The schedules will soon be available at the Courtyard Café and at Goose Slade Farm Shop.

Please can you give this village show a go?

Thank you, Sarah Rashley.

## EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

Visits are arranged during the year to places and gardens of interest.

The programme for 2015 includes visits to the Toby Buckland's Garden Festival, University of Bristol Botanic Garden and Deans Court. There is an annual three/four day garden club holiday, this year based at Farnham, during which gardens and places of interest are visited.

### Diary dates

Thursday 9 April – The spirit of the Japanese Garden, David Burgess


Thursday 14 May – Wicked Plants Marion Dale, the May meeting is an open evening – visitors free

Thursday 11 June – Echinacea and Rudbeckia, Martin Young

Thursday 9 July – University of Bristol Botanic Garden, Joan Chapman

Meetings, trips and the annual holiday are all very well supported. We are always happy to welcome new members and visitors. Why not join us for an enjoyable, sociable evening! You do not need to be good at gardening; talks cover a fairly wide variety of subjects. The annual subscription is £12, with subs of £1 per meeting. Visitors £3. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, commencing at 7.30pm in the East Coker Hall.


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



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## EAST COKER DISCUSSION GROUP

The Discussion Group is now 'up and running'. The purpose of the group is to share and explore ideas and beliefs. It is not to provide a platform for members to promote their own ideas and beliefs with the aim of persuading others of them. We hope to explore the political, cultural, moral, religious and practical issues which underpin particular ideas and beliefs, with the aim of equipping ourselves better to understand them.

The Group is about exploring ideas, not debating them in an adversarial way. We intend the atmosphere to be supportive and 'unpressured'. Meetings are expected to last for about an hour, but with the option of continuing for a further half hour should enough members wish. Would anyone interested in becoming a member of the group please contact John Field on 07890375780 or email [jcmfield@hotmail.com](mailto:jcmfield@hotmail.com)

Our next meeting is due to take place in early April but, usually, they are on a Thursday towards the end of the month, commencing at 11.00am (but we are reasonably flexible!).



## EAST COKER WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Programme Committee have just completed organising the programme for the next twelve months and believe they have arranged a varied and exciting year's meetings.

At the AGM in April, there will also be a member of the South Somerset District Council with information on how to gain access to various indoor sport activities, which members will be able to sample. In the months to come, we will also be hearing about the 'School in a Bag' project, flower arranging, and road safety, along with our birthday outing in June to the R.N.L.I centre at Poole with free time.

Our last Whist Drive until the autumn will be held on Thursday 16 April.

The W.I. (which welcomes women) of all ages meets on the last Thursday of the month at the East Coker Hall at 7.30pm. Anyone wishing further information should contact secretary Ruby Rollo tel 475010.

### Diary dates

Thursday 16 April – Whist Drive at East Coker Hall, 7.30pm

Thursday 30 April – AGM and American Supper at East Coker Hall, 7.30pm

## EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

East Coker Poetry Group meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Helyar Arms (Apple Loft or skittle alley). Our website - [www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk](http://www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk)

**Tuesday 28 April** – features writer and poet Kate Scott who is coming to the East Coker Poetry Group. £2 entrance.

**Tuesday 26th May** – Open Meeting, just bring some poems to read, or come and listen. £2 entrance.



## THE EAST COKER BULK OIL PURCHASE SCHEME – JANUARY 2015

You did the right thing if you were one of the 44 people who ordered a total of 33,000 litres of oil in January. We got an amazing price of 31.75p per litre. Who knows what the price will be for the next order in July/August, but it probably won't be lower. The asking price is 3ppl higher already.

To join in or with any questions contact me, preferably by email [pauledwards@waitrose.com](mailto:pauledwards@waitrose.com), or 864413. Email makes it much easier and quicker to circulate information and I do not divulge email addresses. I circulate an email reminder before co-ordinating each order. As I said, the next order will be in the summer, see the July Newsletter for details.

Paul Edwards

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

## **EAST COKER BRANCH ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH**

We are now getting organised for our popular Cream Tea Deliveries. We will be doing our local deliveries this year on Friday 3 July.

Following the success of our overnight deliveries all over the country last year we are expanding this again with the aim of delivering 10,000 cream teas on Thursday 18 June. If you know anyone who might be interested in taking part in either of these fundraising events, please contact me on the details below.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Diva Lunch will be held this year on Friday 9 October; again further details are available from me.

All profits from the above will help us stop the suffering of babies and children caused by disease and disability across the UK.

Jane Donnelly – email [jane@donnelly81.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:jane@donnelly81.fsnet.co.uk) tel 478409

## **Young People**

### **EAST COKER SCHOOL**

We recently celebrated the wonderful world of books. Our children and staff greeted World Book Day in the most colourful display of costumes you could imagine. The theme for the day was Colour in Books and this gave the children, and their parents, a wide choice of outfits. Some went for well-known stories with colourful characters; others just got their brightest and boldest out of the wardrobe. We started the day with a parade and the effect was dazzling.

In classes during the day, lots of activities gave the children the chance to enjoy themselves while celebrating the worlds of imagination and imagery. We shared our activities with a special assembly at the end of the day.

World Book Day marked the end of a special Reading Challenge. The children were asked to take part in a sponsored fundraising effort to support our building development – a lovely new teaching room replacing some tired and scruffy storage rooms. They invited friends and family to sponsor them to read as many books or stories as they could in the month between 5 February and 5 March. The money is being collected as I write, and has already exceeded £1,000, which is a fantastic tribute to the children's hard work and their families' generosity.

The school also hosted a Book Fair giving families a chance to buy from a selection of good-quality books over a week at the start and end of the school day. The school benefitted by receiving free books from the company.

All these activities are recognition of the power and importance of reading at East Coker School. We want the children to be inspired and enthused by the world of reading. It is such an important skill to give access to all areas of education, but it is also a life skill which will provide entertainment, enrichment and enlightenment for the rest of their lives.

Richard Powell, Headteacher

### **East Coker PTFA**

East Coker School Summer Fair is Friday 12 June from 6.00pm – 8.00pm.

### **EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP**

We are within the hiking season at present, with the Scouts having completed a very muddy day hike around the Sherborne area in February and preparing for the Fox Trophy weekend hike after Easter. The Cubs have their own Centaur Hike competition before Easter.

Recently, the Beavers have been learning about disability, and spent an evening up in the woods.

After Easter, the Cubs will be working towards their Navigator badge, Outdoor Challenge and Backwoods Cooking badge. The Scouts will be preparing for District Jamboree, which is an all-weekend camping competition (we won the Novice Trophy last year).



Our hut extension Planning Application is in progress, so we hope to be able to take advantage of the improving weather to start building.

**Spring Jumble Sale** - Saturday 18 April at East Coker Hall from 2.00pm. **Remember we will collect.** Contact Max Bugler 862186.

Our Autumn Jumble Sale will be on Saturday 17 October 2015.

### **Waste Paper Collections**

The collection point is opposite the school on the last Saturday of each month, from 8.30am to 10.30am. If possible, please flat-pack your newspapers and tie into bundles.

Saturday 25 April

Saturday 30 May

Saturday 27 June

**EAST COKER PLAYGROUP** – find us on [www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk](http://www.eastcokerpreschool.co.uk)

The Spring Term has flown by and we are fast approaching the final weeks. During the term, the children have explored the four seasons and investigated various types of transport. They have brought in items to share with their friends, heard stories and learnt new songs. The children have also experienced Chinese New Year, made pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, created gifts for Mother's Day and cards for Easter.

Fundraising is essential in supporting the playgroup. The Annual Playgroup Fair will be held on the afternoon of Saturday 16 May 2015 from 1.00pm to 4.00pm at the Pavilion, Long Furlong Lane, East Coker. There will be various stalls, a raffle, BBQ and refreshments. Please come along for lunch and stay for the afternoon, we would love to see you.

The wealth of experience of our fully qualified staff offers quality childcare and education through play, exploring the wider environment and local community with project-based activities. Ofsted have consistently given the group excellent reports and commended us for the interaction and encouragements between staff and children, partnership with parents, teaching, management and the emphasis on fun.

Children can join us from the age of 2½, and Early Years Entitlement is available in the funding period after their third birthday. We are open during term time, with sessions every week day morning, and afternoon sessions on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, and optional lunch cover for children who like to bring a packed lunch.

If you are seeking childcare for your 2-year old, East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup accepts children from their 2nd birthday to starting school. For the past few years, the staff at East Coker Playgroup has also worked at East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup, with both playgroups feeding into East Coker Primary School. This began when East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup was threatened with closure due to staff shortages and it has worked to the benefit of both groups, each maintaining their own committee and identity. East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup is a smaller group, and this can be a great benefit to the younger children.

The opening times, for East Chinnock Under Fives Playgroup are term time with sessions every week day morning and an afternoon session on Wednesday and Thursday, with optional lunch cover for children who like to bring a packed lunch. Find us at [www.eastchinnockunder5spreschool.co.uk](http://www.eastchinnockunder5spreschool.co.uk)

**Stop Press** East Coker Playgroup to offer Summer Holiday Sessions in July and August. For more information and to put your child/children on the waiting list for either Playgroup, please contact Kay Strode on 07798 812540.

East Chinnock Preschool Summer Fair is Saturday 20 June 1.00pm – 4.00pm.

## **The Churches**

### **ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH**

Since the previous Newsletter, we have held our farewell to the Rev'd David Wilson and his wife, Frances. A large congregation gathered in the East Coker Hall to wish them well. Representatives from all seven churches have since made very good progress with the tasks necessary for appointing a successor. We are hoping it will not be long before the post is advertised.

On 7 March, we held a reception at Coker Court to explain the current financial needs of the church. Maintaining an ancient building as a spiritual resource for the community is a principal responsibility for the church, but one where the wider community's support is always greatly appreciated.

By the time you are reading this, we will have held a Benefice Service in St Michael's on Palm Sunday, 29 March. These services, which take place whenever there is a 5th Sunday in the month, enable all seven churches to come together to worship and help members become acquainted with churches in addition to their own.

For Easter Sunday 5 April, our main Service will be at 10.45am, to which everyone is most welcome. Our Children's Work project under the leadership of Ellie Farr is now up and running. One of the first initiatives is an 'All Angels After School Club' on Wednesday afternoons at the school.

Some forward news – our Spring Fair and Plant Sale takes place on the morning of Saturday 30 May at Hope House. A very pleasant occasion, do come along!

On 7 June, we shall be holding our Annual Picnic in the Vicarage garden after the Family Service. Weather permitting, we enjoy a relaxing time together on the lawn. Bring your picnic with you for an enjoyable afternoon.

St Michael's will be running the raffle at the village Fete on 4 July. Any donations of prizes (preferably edible, drinkable or plantable!!) would be most welcome, and we look forward to seeing you at the fete. Further information about St Michael's can be found at our website [www.eastcokerchurch.org.uk](http://www.eastcokerchurch.org.uk)

Details of all Services at the seven churches in the Coker Ridge Benefice (together with the monthly Newsletter and weekly Notice Sheet) are available online at [www.cokerridge.org.uk](http://www.cokerridge.org.uk)

### **SPRING FAIR AND PLANT SALE - 30 MAY 2015**

St Michael's will be holding a Spring Fair and Plant Sale on Saturday 30 May at Hope House (next to Townsend Farm, East Coker). Gates open at 10.00 am; the raffle will be drawn at noon.

Entry £1 to include drink and biscuit (children free). Details from Christine Vince, tel 863429.

Stalls will include Plants, Cakes, Produce, Bottle Tombola, Raffle and Fair Trade Stall. Bring your family and buy your spring plants, cakes, jams and marmalade and meet all your friends!

Gardeners – would you please grow some plants for the Fair and bring them along.

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subject to availability.

## EAST COKER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, BURTON LANE

**Weekly Meetings** Sundays Services 11.00am. Other services as announced. **All** are welcome to **all** of our services.

**Coffee Stop** The Hall is open each Wednesday from 11.00am until 1.00pm for coffee and tea. There are usually some 10-14 present. Everyone is welcome to come along and it is simply meant to be a place where friends can get together for a chat. There is no charge for the refreshments.

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

**Little Wheelers** Mother and Toddler Group meeting at the East Coker Hall each Tuesday (during term time) from 10.30am - 12.00pm. £2.50 per family to include coffee/tea and cake for the adults (with squash and biscuits for the children). There are also regular Craft activities. Parents and guardians are responsible for their child's welfare.

**Girls' Get-Together** takes place once a month on a Thursday evening when (usually) some 30 or so ladies of all ages get together for a meal and watch a demonstration or listen to a short talk.

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

Alternatively you may wish to look at our website on [www.eastcokerchapel.com](http://www.eastcokerchapel.com)  
'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.' Philippians, Chapter 4 verse 13

## Village News

### **PLANT SALE – In aid of St. Margaret's Hospice at Weavers Lodge, East Coker**

Our annual plant sale will be held on **Saturday 23 May 2015 between 10.00am and 2.00pm.**

Parking is very limited, so please park on the road near the school. The sale will be well signposted. I have a willing husband with wheelbarrow who can assist you. There will be a plentiful supply of flower plants, and this year we hope to have some vegetable plants as well. There will be large cardboard boxes for transporting plants. I'm sorry but there will be no sales before the 23rd.

A raffle will also be held on the day, with excellent prizes.

We have had many successful years, and we are hoping this year will also be well attended. Hope to see you in May.

Christine and Glenn Seymour tel. 863961

### **VILLAGE FETE SATURDAY, 4 JULY 2015 AT EAST COKER HALL**

We at East Coker Christian Fellowship are intending to organise the Village Fete for **Saturday 4 July.**

We will be looking to hold the Fete from 12noon until 4.00pm. We are hoping to have many of our regular attractions (Thomas the Tank Engine, The Jug Band, Children's Tent etc) with a few new attractions as well. (Bugfest are due to be coming and we are hoping that they will be bringing along their Python and Boa Constrictor.)

**Some of the village societies/clubs have already replied to the invitation to take part. If you know of any society, club or individual(s) who may want to support the Fete either by providing some entertainment or having a stall, please ask them to contact me as below.**

**Please Note** that the charges for the tables/pitches have been held at the same levels as last year. A table in the Hall is priced at £2.00 per foot, frontage for pitches in the field £1.50 per foot.

Many thanks, Kevin Chapman, Pastor, East Coker Christian Fellowship. Contact Details: Home 422594. Mobile 07812726853 email [ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ec.cf@hotmail.co.uk)

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## **FACEBOOK EAST COKER LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

A new Facebook Group for village history has been set up by Nick Whitsun-Jones who lives in Wraxhill.

Please join the Group if you have a Facebook account and you are interested in the history of East Coker and the surrounding area. Just search on Facebook for 'East Coker Local History Group' and click on 'join'.

At the moment, the Group is just an online discussion forum but if numbers and interest demand, we might be able to think of having meetings in the future.

Anyone wishing to contact Nick about this can e-mail him on [whitsun1jones@gmail.com](mailto:whitsun1jones@gmail.com)

## **WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE USE OF YOUR SPARE TIME**



## **WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP YOUR COMMUNITY**

South Somerset CommunityTransport are looking for volunteer car drivers (expenses paid), paid casual minibus driver's and Passenger Assistants to help transport people who have difficulty accessing Main Stream Transport

Go on give us a call & we can tell you all about us..

**01935 477399**

## EAST & NORTH COKER CONSERVATION AREAS

The SSDC are reviewing the two Conservation Areas covering the Parish, as they legally have to do from time to time. This is tied up with the work being done on the Neighbourhood Plan, so as to ensure that the Conservation Areas are up to date.

The East Coker Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group is assisting the SSDC in this work but the final decision on any review will be for SSDC, who will have to consult the public on any review proposals and consider representations.

The final decision will be made by the Area South Committee of SSDC, which the public can attend.

Should anyone have any queries or concerns over this matter please contact Nick Whitsun-Jones on 424366 or e-mail him on [whitsun1jones@gmail.com](mailto:whitsun1jones@gmail.com)

## GOOSE SLADE FARM SHOP

We stock a wide range of the best food and drink from carefully selected local producers, and almost all of our wide range of meat is from our own farm. We make all of our own sausages here in the butchery, some of the flavours are plain pork, pork & cider, pork & leek, lamb & garlic and of course our very popular goose & plum. We make a delicious beef burger, perfect for the BBQ season ahead, and we can also make gluten-free sausages. Bread is delivered daily from Evershot Bakery. Milk is from Somerset dairy, and we are able to take orders. If getting here is a problem, we can always deliver within the village.

Food and drink is served all day in our Teashop, and we are happy to reserve a table for you.

The baby goslings will be arriving soon and by the end of April you will be able to see them grazing, with Dec, our resident goat, keeping a watchful eye on them and the new spring lambs.

We look forward to serving you soon, Phil, Liz, Lindsey, Joe & Charlotte, tel 863735

## SOMERSET COUNTY LIBRARY

The mobile library route for East Coker is Tuesday, every four weeks from 1.00pm – 1.20 pm at The Helyar Arms, 1.30pm – 1.45pm pm at Mill Close and 1.50pm – 2.05pm Meadow View.

Further information from Libraries Direct 08453459177 or [www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.somerset.gov.uk/libraries)

21 April

19 May

16 June

14 July

## THE CINNAMON TRUST, EAST COKER



The Cinnamon Trust is the only specialist national charity for the terminally ill and people in their later years and their much loved, much needed companion animals. We urgently need dog walking volunteers in East Coker for a lovely 8-year old Labrador who would love to go for a good walk.

What happens if illness, injury or just getting older affects our ability to look after our four-legged companions? Elderly or ill pet owners become worried about their ability to care for their pets, feeling that their only option is to re-home them; this is where our national network of dedicated volunteers step in to offer support, enabling them to stay together.

We'll walk the dog for a housebound owner, we'll foster pets when owners need hospital care, we'll fetch the cat food, even clean out the bird cage or litter trays.

We are always seeking new volunteers even if you can only spare an hour a week we would love to hear from you. If anyone can help please call during office hours 01736 758707 or via email [volunteer@cinnamon.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@cinnamon.org.uk)

Please also check out our website for more details [www.cinnamon.org.uk](http://www.cinnamon.org.uk) Registered charity number 1134680



## HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING & REFUSE COLLECTIONS – EASTER AND MAY BANK HOLIDAYS

Easter collections one day later from Good Friday 3 April, Early May Bank holiday (Monday 4 May), all collections one day later. Spring Bank Holiday (Monday 25 May), all collections one day later.

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

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

The Courtyard 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.

## NEWS FROM COURTYARD CAFÉ

Summer is nearly on us, and our outside seating area has had a good sweep in readiness. So what can you expect from your Café in the weeks to come?

From 16 April, we will be serving a home-cooked roast every Thursday lunchtime. Please book a roast meal by the Saturday before. Everyone was sad about the closure of the Village Shop and while we could never replace this valuable asset, we are able to stock milk, eggs, tea and coffee. We can also take orders for bread to be included in our daily order with the Cake Box bakery.

We have no special dates for this period other than our usual Crafty Sessions on the first Saturday of each month.

Allan



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## EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

### Neighbourhood Plan

Many thanks for the 55 responses we received to the community engagement on our draft Vision Statement, Objectives and Policy Intents. As a result of the comments, we have made some amendments and the revised document is posted on the East Coker Parish Council website [www.eastcokerparish.com/neighbourhood-plan/community-engagement-2015](http://www.eastcokerparish.com/neighbourhood-plan/community-engagement-2015)

We are now working on the production of draft policies, which in turn will lead to a draft Neighbourhood Plan (NP). Our current work has been sent to South Somerset District Council who has to produce a Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report, as well as commenting on our Policy Intents. They aim to complete this by the end of May, however they advise us to continue working on the draft policies



and NP in the meantime. During the three years that we have been working on this, we have acquired £20,000 of funding from central government, meaning that the work has not impacted on the Precept. However, this does not take into account the hundreds of voluntary hours of work freely given by the members of the Steering Group and other parishioners. As I will stand down from this co-ordination role at the end of April (at the same time as standing down from the Parish Council), I would like to publicly thank all those people who have unstintingly supported the work for more than three years. I hope that the successful completion of the NP happens before too long.

### **Parish Ranger**

We are grateful to our Parish Ranger for the work that he does in keeping our parish in good order. If you spot something that would benefit from his attention, please contact Cllr Bridget Sugg before 6.00pm on 863435 or 07097621106.

### **Youth Activity**

The existing funding acquired to support the Youth Activities finishes in August 2015. The Parish Council has voted in principle to put aside money to continue to fund this activity for a further year from that time. The meetings take place at the Pavilion on Monday evenings. For further information, contact Cllr Rod Jones.

### **Future Projects**

After consideration was given to the upgrading of the **Chapel**, it was considered that the very high cost of such work was prohibitive and it was resolved that only necessary maintenance be undertaken as needed.

Maintenance is needed on the **Pavilion** and will be undertaken following detailed costings.

After much deliberation, it has been agreed that it will be a valuable asset to the parish to resurface the **Pavilion car park** and upgrade the facilities within the adjoining **children's play park**. This work will take place during March/April 2015.

### **Parish Council Website**

The Parish Council is very grateful to Matt Horsley for the large amount of voluntary work that he has done in support of the website.

It has been agreed that Keith Taylor will be employed to support the future development and enhancement of the website, together with offering training to the Clerk in Waiting.

### **Nippy Bus Service**

Following the recent survey, Somerset County Council has informed Syd Hardy of Nippy Bus Limited that the N8 Saturday service will cease operating after service on 23 May 2015. Their website will be updated accordingly.

### **Community Grant**

East Coker Primary School has been granted £500 from ECPC Community grant fund to help provide facilities for practical cookery, which became a statutory part of the National Curriculum for children from 5-13 years of age from September 2014.

### **Outline application for development of Sustainable Urban Extension – Keyford**

Mr Simon Fox, Planning Officer, SSDC and Mr John Bishop, Keyford Landowners, attended the March meeting of ECPC to explain and answer questions about this outline planning application. Further meetings are planned before the decision is expected by 27 May 2015 (according to SSDC website at the time of writing.)

### **End of current Council's term of office**

The current Council will meet for the last time on Wednesday 8 April, and elections will take place on Thursday 7 May 2015. As I step down from the Parish Council, I wish the new Council every success in working together harmoniously for the good of all parishioners.

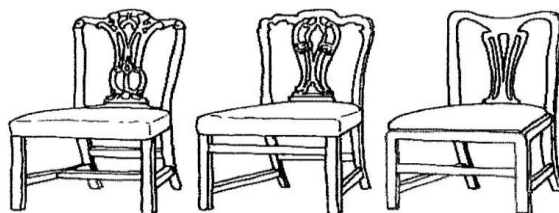
Cllr Kath Wilson

### **NEXT ISSUE**

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in **July 2015**. Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay, Little Meadow, Coker Marsh, East Coker or e-mail [l.lindsay@eastcoker.com](mailto:l.lindsay@eastcoker.com), by Friday 19 June 2015.

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### QUARTERLY VILLAGE DIARY

**April 2015 – July 2015**

Thurs 9 Apr	Gardening Club – Japanese Garden	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 13 Apr	Time To Share – Talk - Old Yeovil	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 16 Apr	W.I. – Whist Drive	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 17 Apr	RBL – Cheese and Wine	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 18 Apr	Scouts – Jumble	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 21 Apr	Library		
Fri 24 Apr	Coffee Morning – Help for Heroes	10.00am -12.00pm	The Forester's
Sat 25 Apr	Scouts – Waste Paper Collection	8.30am – 10.30am	Near the school
Mon 27 Apr	Time To Share – Icelandic Talk	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 28 Apr	Poetry Group – Kate Scott	7.30pm	The Helyar Arms
Thurs 30 Apr	W.I. – AGM & American Supper	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 8 May	70 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary VE Day		
Sat 9 May	The Players – Spring Production	2.30pm & 7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Mon 11 May	East Coker Hall – AGM	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thur 14 May	Gardening Club – Open Meeting	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 16 May	Save East Coker – Wandering Supper		
Sat 16 May	The Playgroup – Summer Fair	1.00pm – 4.00pm	The Pavilion
Mon 18 May	Time To Share – Talk by John Burgess	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 19 May	Library		
Sat 23 May	Plant Sale – St Margaret's Hospice	10.00am – 2.00pm	Weaver's Lodge
Tues 26 May	Poetry Group – Open Meeting	7.30pm	The Helyar Arms
Wed 27 May	East Coker Society - AGM	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 29 May	Coffee Morning – S. S. MIND	10.00am -12.00pm	The Forester's
Sat 30 May	Spring Plant Sale	10.00am	Hope House
Sat 30 May	Scouts – Waste Paper Collection	8.30am – 10.30am	Near the school
Mon 1 June	Time To Share – Healthwatch Forum	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 7 June	Save East Coker – Garden Party	12.00pm	Longlands
Thur 11 June	Gardening Club – Echinacea's etc	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Fri 12 June	East Coker School PTFA - Summer Fai	6.00pm – 8.00pm	The School
Mon 15 June	Time To Share – Outing		
Tue 16 June	Library		
<b>Fri 19 June</b>	<b>Copy for July Newsletter</b>		
Fri 26 June	Coffee Morning – Children's Life Line	10.00am - 12.00pm	The Forester's
Sat 27 June	Scouts – Waste Paper Collection	8.30am – 10.30am	Near the school
Mon 29 June	Time To Share – Keep Fit	2.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 4 July	Village Fete	12.00pm – 4.00pm	East Coker Hall