

East Coker Society Newsletter



July 2024

Free Issue No 195

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East Coker Society News

AGM

East Coker Society's AGM will be held on Wednesday 16 October 2024 at 6.30pm in the Dampier Room of East Coker Hall. You are most welcome to attend.

KEEPING UP TO DATE WITH VILLAGE ACTIVITIES

If you are interested in keeping up to date with all the activities in our village, these are some sources of information, which you can subscribe to.

East Coker Society Newsletter – published quarterly (January, April, July and October). Free of charge. All local clubs, societies and organisations are encouraged to provide input. It has been the main source of information since 1975. Distributed by email and posted on the website at www.eastcoker.com.

Printed copies are also available at Goose Slade Farm Shop, The Helyar Arms, St Michael and All Angels' Church, the Village Café and East Coker Hall.

If you wish to subscribe, please contact Lesley at l.lindsay@eastcoker.com.

East Coker Parish Council's Coker Post – ad-hoc information relating to the Parish Council's activities and notices. Distributed by email.

If you wish to subscribe, please contact sandi@eastcokerparish.com The website also has parish information, news and updates at www.eastcokerparish.com.

Coker Connect – ad hoc publication for the community with up-to-date news, pictures and information about village events and updates connected with Project Beacon for St Michael's. Distributed by email.

If you wish to subscribe, please contact sandra.snelling@googlemail.com.

East Coker - Past, Present & Future – available through Facebook. Members are free to share memories, photos, events and comments relating to "the idyllic Somerset village of East Coker and immediate surrounding areas".

If you wish to join, go to www.facebook.com/groups/eastcoker.

Sarah Owen, Secretary, East Coker Society

Next issue

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in October 2024.

Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay at l.lindsay@eastcoker.com by **Saturday 21 September 2024 or sooner if possible.**

Village Clubs and Organisations

EAST COKER WI

We are pleased to say that the WI has recently welcomed new younger members with great enthusiasm and new ideas. It is often difficult for people new to a village to integrate and we are happy to welcome them.

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month at 7.30pm at East Coker Hall. Interesting talks are arranged, followed by refreshments and a social chat. The meeting usually finishes by 9.00pm.

A fun competition is held each month with the money raised going to a central WI fund to distribute to women in Third World countries to enable them to earn money for themselves and feed their family.

Anyone wishing for further information, please contact Secretary Pauline tel 864439

Diary dates

Thursday 25 July	Tales of a Somerset Soap Maker	7.30pm, East Coker Hall
Thursday 29 August	Driftwood Art	7.30pm, East Coker Hall
Thursday 26 September	Willow Charcoal Drawing	7.30pm, East Coker Hall
Thursday 31 October	Celebration Garlands	7.30pm, East Coker Hall

Anyone wishing further information, please contact our secretary, Pauline 864439.

Joyce Pryor

EAST/WEST COKER BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

We would like to thank everyone who attended our recent Cheese and Wine Evening.

Your generosity enabled us to raise the stunning total of £968, which will enable us to donate more to the Legion's Dunkirk Memorial House care home in Bishops Lydeard with its excellent dementia care facility.

Dave Giles

EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm in East Coker Hall unless otherwise stated.

Diary dates

We have our Annual Summer Event, which is being held at Brynhaven, Burton Lane, Simon Pryor's house, on Sunday 21 July, for more information please contact David Pryor.

Wednesday 7 August - Keens Cheese are giving a talk and tasting, they will be selling products as well.

Wednesday 4 September - Majestic Wines.

Wednesday 2 October - Simon Murphy - My Life with Alcohol.

Wednesday 6 November - Hindu Diwali Festival of Lights.

Please come and support a friendly group who enjoy tasting wines and other drinks and food.

See you at the bottom of the glass.

Sarah

EAST COKER VILLAGE HALL CHARITABLE TRUST

As mentioned in previous copies of the East Coker Society Newsletter, the options for the repair/replacement of the roof had been under investigation for several months. A final decision has been taken by the hall trustees and it is anticipated that work will commence on replacing the roof later this year, most likely in September/October. Grants have been, and are being, applied for. We were successful in our application to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund. The anticipated cost of these works and improvements is circa £110,000. We have now raised just under half of the funds needed.

Any help towards raising funds for this project will be greatly appreciated, as will any donations towards the project. Your Village Hall is used by a variety of organisations, classes, parties and for village events. We are extremely fortunate to have such a facility, which the trustees are keen to maintain and improve to as high a standard as possible.

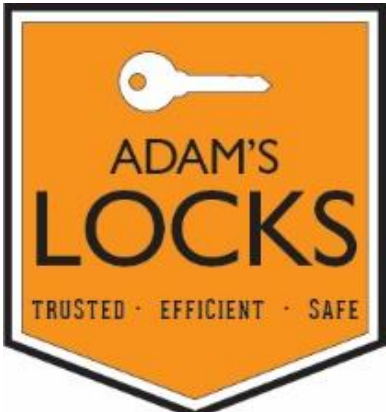
Although poorly supported during the first four months of the year, Film Nights will recommence in September – increased audience numbers would be appreciated if we are to continue to provide this benefit to the community. Why not come along and try a night out at the "East Coker Film Night"? Easy parking, sociable people, tea or coffee and biscuits. We try to show a varied range of films but are somewhat restricted by what FilmFlix is able to offer.

Film nights are always held on the last Wednesday of the month. A small group helps to set up, meeting at the hall at 6.30pm, ready for the doors to open at 7.00pm. If you are able to assist in setting up, it would be greatly appreciated. It is not onerous, and you would not need to help every month. Either turn up at the Hall for 6.30pm to help or contact Helen on 01935 862447. Details of the films from September will be published once we know what is available.

Exceptionally well used by a wide range of groups, clubs and classes, the hall is run by a committee of trustees. To ensure that the hall continues to be a valued community facility, the current trustees would welcome new committee members to assist in the running of it. You should be committed and be prepared to take on the responsibilities associated with acting as a trustee. It is not onerous – we have four meetings a year (including the AGM). If you are interested in helping to ensure that the hall remains a community facility, please make contact via the website <https://eastcokervillagehall.co.uk/> or email address echbookings@btinternet.com. We will be happy to discuss what is involved, as well as the responsibilities of acting as a trustee.

Details about the hall, how to book it and to find out what is on, may be found via the hall website <https://eastcokervillagehall.co.uk>.

Helen





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EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

At last! – some better weather, which no doubt everyone is enjoying and taking advantage of.

Club members have enjoyed talks about naughty plants, spring and autumn in northern and southern Greece and a discount shopping evening, talk and refreshments at Castle Gardens in Sherborne. We look forward to the following over the coming months:

Thursday 8 August	Fungi: the good, the bad and the ugly – Michael Jordan, chair of the Fungus Trust
Thursday 12 September	Organic Gardening – Brian Hesketh
Thursday 10 October	RHS Gardens set to Music – David Moon
Thursday 11 November	Capability Brown's approach to Garden Design - Pam Simpson. This will be followed by the Annual General Meeting.

In July, we will have our Annual "garden party". In August, the geranium competition will be judged.

We try to provide a varied programme during the year. We are always happy to welcome visitors and new members; whether or not you are interested in gardening 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 with plug plants being distributed in the spring and bulbs in the autumn for the competition. Day trips are arranged to places of interest.

Why not join us for an enjoyable, sociable evening? You do not need to be good at gardening; talks cover a wide variety of subjects. The Annual Subscription is currently £20, with subs of £2 per meeting. Visitors £5. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, commencing at 7.30pm 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 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 would like to know more, please feel free to phone 01935 862447.

Helen

EAST COKER FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW – SATURDAY 17 AUGUST



READY – STEADY – GROW, BAKE, MAKE – SHOW!

The East Coker Flower and Produce Show will be held on 17 August at East Coker Hall. This is an "open" show, which means that anyone can enter – you do not have to live in the parish of East Coker – all are welcome.

Hopefully, many of you will have already started to think about what you could enter. This Show is a local village show – you do not need to reach the standards required for Chelsea, Hampton Court or Malvern, The Great British Bake Off or The Great British Sewing Bee – although you can always aspire to them! If you haven't exhibited before, are uncertain as to what to do, or just need a little encouragement, help is at hand – we are always pleased to welcome new entrants, young, old or in between.

The Show Schedule was finalised earlier in the year. Printed copies have been distributed to various locations, including Goose Slade Farm Shop, the East Coker Café, the Village Hall, the Spar Shop on Sandhurst Road, and Forest Hill Stores. A copy is also on the East Coker Hall website <https://eastcokervillagehall.co.uk>.

The sunflower plant competition for the children, funded and organised by East Coker Gardening Club, has 15 entrants, which is disappointing. However, we look forward to seeing the sunny display which they will provide.

A FEW TIPS FOR SHOWING:

1. Read the schedule carefully, including the rules.
2. Note the dates and times given, particularly the deadline for entries and the staging times.
3. Make sure your entry form is submitted by the deadline, but earlier if possible. Note where to place your entry forms, either in one of the boxes which can be found at the Café and at Goose Slade two weeks prior to the show, or posted to 21 Mill Close, East Coker.
4. If you haven't exhibited before, do not try to enter too many classes! Don't be afraid to enter as help will be available on the day to show you where, and how, to place your entries.

Have a go and enjoy doing it. It is fun, rewarding and an excellent afternoon out, and not forgetting the delicious homemade cakes available to savour with your cup of tea along with the friendly company.

We look forward to receiving your entries and to welcoming you to the show at East Coker Hall on Saturday 17 August. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us, 01935 862447.

Helen

THE PLAYERS

People of East Coker...your Pantomime needs you!!!

This year's Pantomime offering is the traditional Sleeping Beauty, taking place in East Coker Hall on Friday 29 and Saturday 30 November.

It's so lovely to be supported by the village community each year, and we love to see you all in the audience joining in and giving us your best "Boo-Hisses", and "It's Behind You!"

However, have you ever found yourself wanting to get up on that stage and join us?! Well now is your moment!

East Coker Players are looking for new members, young and old, to join us and make the Panto bigger and better than ever!

We are a welcoming and inclusive group, there is always a part for everyone, and the emphasis is on making the rehearsals as fun as the show itself. We need people onstage (big roles and small roles), backstage, and front of house, so you don't even have to don a silly costume to get involved if that's not your thing!

If you are interested in joining us this year, please do register your interest by dropping an email to me at hollyrobson@me.com. I am happy to answer any questions you might have and I will add you to the list of people to contact with the relevant information in September.

We will be rehearsing once a week from 7.00pm to 9.00pm on a Monday through September and most of October, then Mondays and Wednesdays up until the performances on 29 and 30 November.

Any Junior cast will be rehearsing for an hour from 6.00pm before the adults on a Monday. We have a strict safeguarding policy and a safeguarding officer at every rehearsal to ensure our junior members are well looked after.

This is my first time Directing for the East Coker Players (although you might remember me as the infamous Captain Jack Sparrow, or Percy in previous productions) and although I've had the privilege of directing many other pantomimes and productions over the years, I can honestly say I've never worked with such a welcoming and inclusive group of lovely people before.

First read-through will take place on Monday 9 September from 6.00pm to 9.00pm, with casting and a second read-through the following week on Monday 16 September.

Looking forward to seeing you all there - OH YES, I AM!

Holly Robson

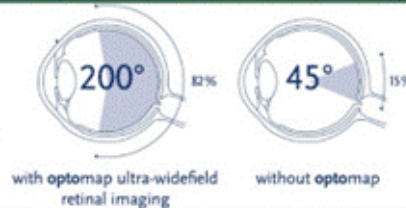


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EAST COKER POETRY GROUP

Meetings are held in the Village Café on the last Tuesday of the month and start at 7.30pm, usually finishing around 9.00pm.

The Café opens for us from just after 7.00pm and there is easy parking in the evening behind the Café in the area used by business users during the day

There is no charge for membership, only an interest in poetry is needed.

Refreshments are available, including the Café's delicious cakes.

Our meetings do not follow a set pattern, so check our website for up-to-date details

www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk.

- **Tuesday 30 July** - 'Ash Wednesday' - Bernard Holiday will help us through what many see as T.S. Eliot's most difficult, yet perhaps his most perfect, poem.
- **Tuesday 27 August** - Poetry of the Orient. Wendy Salter talks on Chinese Poetry. Bring a poem from, or about, Asia to read.
- **Tuesday 24 September** - Railways and Poetry. An Audio/Visual meeting.

David Cloke, East Coker Poetry

Contact David Cloke for more info about the group:

- Email info@eastcokerpoetry.org.uk.
- Website www.eastcokerpoetry.org.uk will carry details of meetings when they are confirmed.

David Cloke

Young People

EAST COKER PLAYGROUP. FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK: EAST COKER PRESCHOOL

Stick insects, Olympics, Radiographers, piglets, Sports Day, ZooLab, the 5 Senses and a party. Just some of the curious, astounding, interesting, conversation provoking and learning situations the playgroup children, staff and parents and carers get into. Our parents and carers are wonderful at contributing to the life of the Playgroup and we thank them so much.

We have never had stick insects in all the years I have been here and so far, so good. The tiny insects are growing, the children enjoy watching the weekly changing of the vegetation and enjoy dropping water onto the leaves. The greatest fun is watching out for escaping stick insects while I dab around with damp kitchen roll 'picking' up the poo. There are 4, a great real life counting opportunity, observing carefully to find 4 (they camouflage into the vegetation very well), we monitor their growth and care for them, so many learning opportunities!

Our fundraising Olympics event raised just over £500 and a big thank you goes out to everyone who supported the event in all the ways they could. We have had wonderful visits from Radiographers (with x-rays!) and return visits by piglets and a tiny kid goat. Still to do this half term is Sports Day, a visit from ZooLab, finding out more about our Five Senses and the end of term Party.

**Our next fundraising event will be on
Saturday 16 November 2024 when we are holding a Christmas Market in East Coker Hall.
Please get in touch to book a stall for this fundraising event.**

Children can join us from the age of 2 years. We accept Somerset Council 2-year-old funding, 15-hour Universal Early Years Entitlement, Working Families Entitlement 15-hour, 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	8.00-9.00	12.00-1.00	3.00-4.00
Tuesday	8.00-9.00	12.00-1.00	3.00-4.00
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 07503751133 or email office.ecplaygroup@gmail.com

Thank you for all your support.

Eve Dudden

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP

Our Cubs and Scouts have attended their annual camps alongside other groups from across East Somerset.

The Scouts entered a patrol in the Senior East Somerset Camping Competition. This meant all their equipment is placed inside their allocated rectangle of ground and they are left to put up their tents, build their site, cook, eat and sleep. This shows the development through the scout sections and how much they have learnt and how capable they are – the oldest is 13 years old. The patrol was incredible; despite the

very wet conditions on Saturday, they worked hard all weekend and came away with a number of trophies; they won the Gate competition, came 2nd in the Cooking competition and came 2nd overall in the camping.



To relax the following Friday evening, we went into the woods and had S'mores (marshmallows and chocolate biscuits) over an open fire.

Our Scouts also did superbly at the East Somerset Fox Trophy Hike event in April. This event is held from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon and the scouts are self-sufficient, carrying their tents and food. Again, our patrol came 2nd overall during a weekend of mixed sunshine and rain!



The Cubs had their East Somerset District camp at Hornblotton where they joined around 300 other cubs for the weekend.

A vast range of activities were put on for the weekend including tractor pulling, paddle boarding, inflatables, popcorn making and a campfire.

The Cubs were amazing and had a brilliant time.

During the camp, Faye was awarded her Young Leader Award. In order to achieve this award, Faye has completed 12 training courses and four validation modules. Faye has helped at beavers and cubs every week; running activities, running whole evenings and helping develop the programme. She has become an amazing asset within our group, and she fully deserves the recognition this award demonstrates.



Unfortunately, we have had to close our beaver section and would welcome contact from anyone who feels they could help us run this section. We run East Coker Scout Group with a small team of leaders and supporters. If you have any time you feel you could offer us, please do get in touch – this may be anything from helping maintain the scout hut, to looking after our equipment or joining a section once a month.



Charlie and Faye will be off through Europe in July to complete their Explorer Belt award. International opportunities are highlights for anyone within scouting and they will be visiting Holland, Germany, Switzerland and Italy by train. They are booked into Kandersteg International Camp Site in Switzerland for four days where they will meet scouts from across the world in comparison to visiting Pompeii and eating pizza in Italy.

Thank you for all your support.

David Webber, Group Scout Leader / Group Lead Volunteer
eastcokerscouts@gmail.com



1st East Coker Scout Group



EAST COKER PRIMARY SCHOOL

This year has been an incredibly busy one for all of us at East Coker Primary. We are extremely proud of the achievements our pupils have made this year and the wide range of projects they have engaged with.

In the autumn term, we had our Year 6 residential at Great Wood Camp which is always a great week. Staff give up their time to enable our children to take part in new experiences, some not having stayed away from home before. They took part in archery, team building activities, blindfold walks through streams, climbing walls, grass sledging and much more. Photos can be found on the school website www.eastcokerschool.co.uk.



This year we have had educational visits to Melbury Estates and Foxdown Farm as well as an activity day at Yeovil Town Football Club and a Year 5 and Year 6 residential. We have had visitors in from different professions, several theatre groups, explosive science days as well helping to save the planet through workshops provided by Carymoor. We have had special clay workshops at OSR projects in West Coker, online workshops from The Eden Project and Bikeability is taking place this week. We are also off to see Aladdin in a few weeks at the Bristol Hippodrome! This is to name just a few extra exciting experiences our children have had this year.

As a school, we pride ourselves in the wider curriculum we provide. This has always been a strength of East Coker school. In April, we achieved the National Wellbeing Gold award following our development on raising attainment with wellbeing. Staff have also given up their free time after school to provide additional clubs for our children. This year, we have had many varied sports clubs including football, basketball, cricket, tennis, and quidditch, watercolour club, photography, choir and board games, to name a few. We are also very lucky to have a sports coach who leads clubs and fixtures, and the children have attended many competitions from football to athletics and from swimming to dance. They always achieve well in sport. In cross country, once again, a number of pupils represented the school in the Area Schools County Cross Country Competition. We also qualified for the Cricket County Finals, in which we finished 6th in the whole of Somerset! A fantastic achievement!

We have also worked closely with the local community. OSR Projects in West Coker has delivered some clay workshops for our pupils and we have also worked with them taking part in Book Making at the Od Arts Festival and viewing the exhibits around East Coker.

We are currently working towards our Arts Mark award and this year we have embedded a culture of pupil led performances. We held a Music Festival in June, which included working with music students from Plymouth University, which enabled us to support our children to create their own 'bands' playing guitar, drums and vocals. You may have heard the performances in the village!

Following on from new government guidance in February 2024 for schools to ensure we have wrap around care for our parents which meets their working needs, the school is starting its own Wraparound Care Service from September, run by school staff, from 7.30am to 6.00pm, five days a week.

In the summer holidays, the school already offers a fantastic array of activities to support our parents with childcare, and the Wraparound Care from September will be a natural extension of this.

A colorful advertisement for the school's breakfast and after-school club. It features a sun icon, the school name, and a list of activities. A purple box contains the schedule: Monday to Fridays, 7.30-8.45am, 3.30-4.30pm, 3.30-5.30pm, and 3.30-6pm. A QR code and a 'book via parent pay' button are also present. At the bottom, there are three photos of children smiling.

East Coker Primary School
for reception to year 6

BREAKFAST & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

activities include:
homework help
special themed days
sports
art & craft
breakfast or snacks
toys and alot more....

monday to fridays
7.30-8.45am
3.30-4.30pm, 3.30-5.30pm & 3.30-6pm

book via parent pay

This is an exciting venture for us, and we are looking forward to providing a high-quality Breakfast and After School Club provision on a par with the high-quality summer club we provide. We have specifically kept costs down to further support our community.

Our fantastic PTFA committee, a very small team of four parents, have worked tirelessly this year to plan and deliver some great events, raising a lot of money for the school community. We have had a Bingo evening, a children's disco, lots of competitions and the Summer Fair. Our Year 6 children ran a number of stalls to help raise money for the school. Without the money raised by the PTFA, we would not have been able to have two theatre company visits, support all our families with reduced costs on educational visits, supply equipment such as the Viking Longboat and ensure that all our Year 3 pupil receive music tuition for a term. This is in addition to many other events and projects they support the school with.

We are also very lucky to have an exceptionally hard-working group of governors who voluntarily give up their time to help move the school forward, continually ensuring the school can deliver the very best for the children and parents of East Coker Primary School. They have led the school through some challenging but necessary change this year. They have tracked the strategic development of the school ensuring we continue to perform well academically as well as provide a strong pastoral provision.

This year, our results are again looking to be on track for above national average in phonics and are showing great outcomes in Early Years. The children have made further improvements in the Year 4 Multiplication test and the progress our children have made since the start of the year has been strong.

Last summer, we had an Ofsted inspection which praised the school in many areas and identified it as continuing to be a good school. This summer, we have had a visit from the Local Authority who particularly praised the care and support systems in place which enable all our staff to provide high quality care for our most vulnerable pupils.

If you would like to support and share your expertise with the school in a governor capacity, we do have a vacancy on our governing body. Please contact the school office for further information.

Jane Hesketh-Williams
Head Teacher



**Volunteer as a
Governor at
East Coker Primary School**

Do you...?

- want to get involved in your local community?
- enjoy seeing staff and children progress and develop?
- want to spend your free time doing something rewarding?

East Coker Primary School is recruiting volunteers who are willing to donate their time to help improve the outcomes of children in local schools and academies, whether as a long-term proposition or in the short-term.

The purpose of governance is to provide confident, strategic leadership and to create robust accountability, oversight and assurance for educational and financial performance. This vital role does involve a time commitment through attendance at meetings, normally held in the evening. At these meetings, you and the other members of the governance board will offer critical advice and scrutiny of the decisions and policies of the school. The role also involves visits into the school or academy during the day to understand the context of the educational setting.

You do not need any experience or qualifications for this role and your personal experiences, whatever they are, will allow you to add value to this position. However, occupational experience of Human Resources, Legal Services and Finance for example is a bonus and will help to ensure that each school or academy has a board with a balance of expertise.

If you feel you have the experience or the skills or know someone who would be suitable, please get in touch with East Coker Primary School to find out more.

Telephone: 01935 862532

Email office@eastcokerprimary.org Website www.eastcokerschool.co.uk

Sarah Sansom, East Coker Primary School

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The Churches

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS' CHURCH

We are delighted to announce that a new Rector for the Parish and Benefice has been appointed. The Reverend Philip Macaulay will be taking up the position later this summer. Phil grew up in Somerset and spent time as a church youth worker in Yeovil before studying theology, first at Middlesex University and then for an MA at Durham. He has served his curacy in a parish in the St Albans Diocese, and this will be his first incumbency. Despite his tender age (!) Phil has a wealth of experience having stood in as priest in charge during a parish vacancy, worked as a hospital chaplain and been involved in inter-faith outreach, in addition to his work with young people. I am sure many across the parish will share our excitement at Phil's appointment and look forward to welcoming him to East Coker. Details of his installation/service of welcome will be announced in due course. When we have an idea of his arrival date, we will organise a less formal meet and greet event to which you will all be invited.

In the meantime, we have had plenty going on in the church over the past few months. As well as our routine services, we have had a baptism (Evelyn), joined the rest of the Benefice for a wonderful outdoor service in Pendomer, and on the first weekend in July saw the marriage of Eleanor and Sam – all of them such happy occasions.

We held a very successful Open Morning and Plant and Produce sale at the church in June. As well as plants and produce, the morning included tower visits, a mouse hunt, teas and coffees and a raffle. An incredible £721.75 was raised for St Margaret's Hospice Care. Thank you to all those who supported the event and the amazing organisers. Watch this space for more church events!

We plan to celebrate Harvest on Sunday 22 September this year. As well as a service of celebration, we will sit down to share a meal. Please join us if you can – everybody is very welcome. The following Sunday, 29 September, is the Feast Day of St Michael and we plan to host the rest of the Benefice in East Coker for Michaelmas (St Michael's Mass). You are always welcome in St Michael's, but particularly for these special events.

There has been a great deal of work going on in the background related to Project Beacon, our plans to make the church more accessible and to make it a more versatile community space. We have all but concluded consulting with the very many organisations which are involved in such projects and have submitted our final (but still outline) proposal to the Diocesan Advisory Committee. We have set-up an information board in the back of the church which gives some context and an overview of the current outline plans. Have a look next time you are passing. If you can't make it up to the church, you can update yourself at the Project Beacon website www.projectbeacon.info

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 the '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 the church's distribution list, 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 with our Churchwarden, Toffer Beattie, whose email is tofferb@gmail.com.

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

We want to give as many people as possible the opportunity to find out what it means to be a Christian. We are continuing to run the 321 course at our Cafe Church on the first Sunday of each month. It is an introduction to Christianity, with videos and time for discussion. You can come and just listen or ask us difficult questions as you wish!

Cafe Church is always on the first Sunday of the month, where fresh coffee, croissants and bacon rolls are provided. The 321 course will run until July. You can sign up for free at 321course.com so if you miss a month in person, you can catch up in the comfort of your own home.

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'.

On Tuesday mornings in term-time, the Toddler Group runs from 10.30am – 12.00pm. This is aimed at mums, dads, grandparents, and child carers and incorporates a café area as well as plenty of play space and equipment.

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.

Tom Whitman

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:

July – No Service Tuesday 6 August Tuesday 3 September Tuesday 1 October

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

ACTION MEDICAL RESEARCH

Thank you to all of you who bought one of Cream Tea Boxes on Thursday 13 June and hope you enjoyed your treat.

We delivered nearly 700 boxes to addresses in Yeovil, Martock, Sherborne, Crewkerne and surrounding areas, making a profit of over £3,650.00.

Thank you again for supporting Action and helping to save and change children's lives.
<https://action.org.uk/>.

Jane Donnelly

LACEYS

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The Property Ombudsman

EAST COKER PARISH COUNCIL

Village Meeting

On Wednesday 22 May 2024, the ECPC hosted an Annual Village Meeting in East Coker Hall.

It was heartening that it was well attended by parishioners who wanted to find out what the PC does and to meet the councillors themselves during a meeting that for several reasons had not been held for a few years. It was also an opportunity to meet the wealth of wonderful clubs and societies that East Coker has to offer which were there to promote themselves.

The Chair of ECPC, Cllr Huxley Cowen, welcomed parishioners in a brief speech and spoke of the many achievements of the council over the last year and highlighted the aims for this year.

Chief amongst these is the project to modernise the Pavilion which, having been delayed by the pandemic and the subsequent dramatic increase in building costs, has had to be revised and re-costed. A new design was presented at the meeting, and this will be refined before re-applying for planning permission in the next couple of months. A full fundraising drive is now underway with borrowing, grant applications and savings being considered, together with initiatives such as local events and the new 100 Club (see below).

The Cemetery is also in the process of being re-landscaped by the PC at the same time as making more space for future graves, which was becoming a pressing problem. As the badgers are carefully moved out and unwanted trees and shrubs are removed, it will look messy for a while but will become much more open and attractive in years to come.

Cllr Cowen also mentioned the request for funds made by Yeovil Town Council to support their commitment to keep the major facilities in the town functioning and maintained now that Somerset Council have had to cut these from their overstretched budget. As one of the surrounding parishes, YTC feel it would be appropriate if East Coker parishioners could contribute as they are very likely to use some or all of these facilities (the Sports & Recreation Ground, the Octagon Theatre, the Westland Leisure Centre and Yeovil Country Park). He asked for feedback from those present as to whether the PC should make an annual contribution from its budget. This was collected and will be part of the decision-making process for next month's meeting.

The Keyford development is still in the planning process so the PC will be keeping a close eye on any changes/issues as they arise.

For the rest of the evening, parishioners were encouraged to meet the councillors and club representatives while partaking of the drinks and nibbles on offer.

All the councillors would like to thank everyone who attended and would ask you to please keep your diary free for Wednesday 20 May 2025 for the next Annual Village Meeting!

New Speed Indicating Device (SID) in the village of East Coker

The SID has been placed at least once in all 4 of its positions on approaches to the village and we now have been able to download data from it. Similar to other SIDs around the country, this shows that the majority drive within the legal limits. For example, over a two-week period in June when located on the Yeovil Road by Tellis Cross, 90% entering North Coker and 79% leaving in the Yeovil direction were at or below 30mph. It is unlikely that the temporary 20mph school zone has a significant effect on these readings. Many drivers find SIDs a useful reminder to be aware of their speed.

Unfortunately, a small minority do not and drive far too fast, ignoring possible hazards. It's hoped the SID will make a difference to safety but remember that even 30mph is often too fast within the village of East Coker.

100 Club

There is still time to enter the 100 club, the proceeds of which go towards the modernisation of the Pavilion at the sports ground in 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, to have a bit of fun and at the same time to support a good parish cause, please do visit <https://eastcokerparish.com/?s=100+club> or email Cllr Wintersgill sandi@eastcokerparish.com, or the Clerk Clerk@eastcokerparish.com for further information.

Fix My Street

We all know the number of potholes on our roads these days. Fix my Street is a great App that allows you to report any issues such as potholes, highways issues, fly tipping, blocked footpaths and much more. It is quick and simple to use, and notifications get sent to, and are actioned by, Somerset Council. <https://www.fixmystreet.com>.

Village Ranger

We have a new Ranger, Tim Foster, in the village who comes once a week. Please email clerk@eastcokerparish.com if you see any jobs which need Tim's attention.

Sports Ground

Sadly, we are still getting reports that dog mess is sometimes not being cleared up by owners at the Sports Ground. This area has many other groups using it, from the Village Football team to the Scouts so please be mindful of this as it will secure the continued use of this space for dog owners and keep it safe for other users.

Huxley Cowen

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

SEPTEMBER TERMS 2024 BEGIN:

TUESDAY CLASS 3RD - 13:05 - 15:05

WEDNESDAY CLASS 4TH - 13:30 - 15:30

SATURDAY CLASS 7TH - 10:00 -12:00

£180 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 or at enquiries@eleanorfarr.gallery



QUARTERLY VILLAGE DIARY July 2024

Sun 21 July	Wine Circle - Annual Summer Event	Brynhaven, Burton Lane, (time tba)	East Coker
Thurs 25 July	WI – Soap Makers	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 30 July	Poetry Group – Ash Wednesday – B Holiday	7.30pm	The Village Cafe
Tues 6 Aug	Mobile Library	1.50pm – 2.10pm	The Helyar Arms
Wed 7 Aug	Wine Circle – Keen’s Cheese	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 8 Aug	Gardening Club – Fungi – Michael Jordan	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 17 Aug	East Coker Flower Show	2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 27 Aug	Poetry Group – Poetry of the Orient	7.30pm	The Village Cafe
Thurs 29 Aug	WI – Driftwood Art	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 3 Sept	Mobile Library	1.50pm – 2.10pm	The Helyar Arms
Wed 4 Sept	Wine Circle – Majestic Wines	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 9 Sept	Gardening Club – Organic Gardening	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 22 Sept	Harvest Festival	10.00am	St Michael’s Church
Tues 24 Sept	Poetry Group – Railways & Poetry	7.30pm	The Village Cafe
Thurs 26 Sept	WI – Willow Charcoal Drawing	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 1 Oct	Mobile Library	1.50pm – 2.10pm	The Helyar Arms
Wed 2 Oct	Wine Circle – Simon Murphy	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 10 Oct	Gardening Club – RHS gardens set to music	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 16 Oct	East Coker Society AGM	6.30pm	The Dampier Room, East Coker Hall

Sat 21 Sept Copy for the October Newsletter or before if possible

Art Classes – September Term (see flyer above)

Begin Tuesday 3 September	13.05pm – 15.05pm	East Coker Hall
Begin Wednesday 4 September	13.30pm – 15.30pm	East Coker Hall
Begin Saturday 7 September	10.00am – 12.00pm	East Coker Hall