

East Coker Society Newsletter



October 2024

Free Issue No 196

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East Coker Society News

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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.

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.

Sarah Owen, Secretary, East Coker Society

Next issue

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in January 2025.

Copy, please, to Lesley Lindsay at l.lindsay@eastcoker.com by **Sunday 5 January 2025 or sooner if possible.**

Village Clubs and Organisations

EAST/WEST COKER BRANCH ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2024

Date for your Diary

With the formal launch of this year's appeal later this month, we will be holding our Annual Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning on **Saturday 12 October** at West Coker Commemoration Hall between 10.30am and 12noon. Tickets are £3 and will be available on the door, to include coffee and cake/biscuits. There will be a Cake and Produce Stall, the usual Raffle, and various items of Legion memorabilia.

We do rely on your support, so please come along, and enjoy the chance to spend some time with friends and family.

All proceeds will go to the 2024 Poppy Appeal, to provide life-long support to serving and ex-serving members of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependents through hardships, injuries, and bereavements.

Dave Giles, Poppy Appeal Organiser

HELYAR ALMSHOUSES – Church Terrace, East Coker

The Helyar Almshouses currently have vacancies. The Houses are available to people aged 55 and over and of limited means, and who were born in the area or have lived hereabouts for seven years or more.

If you are interested, or know anyone who is interested, please get in touch with our agent Karen at Symonds & Sampson on 01935 382903 or via email kmitchell@symondsandsampson.co.uk.

The Trustees of the Helyar Almshouses would also welcome anyone interested in becoming a Trustee. This position is not onerous; accounting or charity experience would be useful but not essential.

If you are interested, please contact Simon, the Chair via simon@simonleedicker.co.uk.

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EAST COKER WINE CIRCLE

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

6 November - an old favourite, Quiz-Nic - teams of 4 to 6 people to bring own wine and nibbles. This is in place of the Light Festival

4 December - members favourite, Wine-Tasting, and mince pie and bread competition. With bread, cheese and port supper.

2025

No meeting in January.

1 February - theme night, Chinese New Year - Year of the Snake.

Sarah

EAST COKER WI

The local WI welcomes new members for monthly get-togethers to hear interesting speakers on a variety of different topics, both educational and amusing. Meetings are held on the last Thursday of each month at 7.30pm at East Coker hall. The talk is given before refreshments and a gossip break, then a quick session of announcements of forthcoming events. We usually finish between 9.00-9.30pm.

A fun competition is held each month, usually having a connection to the current speaker's subject. The money raised goes to a central WI fund to distribute to women in Third World countries to buy equipment to help them earn money for themselves and family.

Whist Sessions are arranged on the third Thursday of each month during the autumn, winter and spring months. These are held in the Dampier Room of East Coker Hall.

A **Bingo** night will be held on **Saturday, 21 November**. Doors open from 6.30pm for 7.00pm Eyes Down. This is **open to anyone**, but regretfully this must be cash only.

Anyone wishing further information, please contact our secretary, Pauline Gubbins on tel 864439

Diary dates

Thursday 17 October	Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 31 October	Celebration Garlands	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Saturday 16 November	Bingo (Open to all)	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 21 November	Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 28 November	Willow Sculptures	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thursday 5 December	Christmas Meal	1.00pm	Helyar Arms
Thursday 19 December	Whist	7.00pm	East Coker Hall

Joyce Pryor



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EAST COKER FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW

Another successful Show held this year on Saturday 17 August at East Coker Hall. It was a pleasure to welcome both regular and new exhibitors - 74 entered, with a total number of 489 entries in the various classes. In spite of very difficult growing conditions this year (too wet, too cold, not enough sunshine...), the undaunted gardeners managed to put on a good range of exhibits in the vegetable, fruit and flower classes.

Entries for the Children's Classes were up again this year, with excellent, high quality and imaginative exhibits. It is always a pleasure to see the results of the imaginations and skills of the younger exhibitors –

we look forward to welcoming them again next year, when hopefully yet more children will be encouraged to enter.

Entries in the “Homecrafts” section were good, with cakes, bread, shortbread, sausage rolls, jam, etc, all looking and smelling delicious.

The “Arts and Crafts” classes displayed the various, and numerous, skills of many local inhabitants from drawing, painting and sketching to needlework and other handcrafted items. “Photography” had good entries this year.

We were very pleased that entries in the “Floral Art” classes were significantly up this year – maybe some of you have been inspired to enter in 2025?

We were also pleased, having reviewed them, to see a few more entries in the wine classes. It would seem that more of you are making cordials and spirits

Trophies awarded this year:

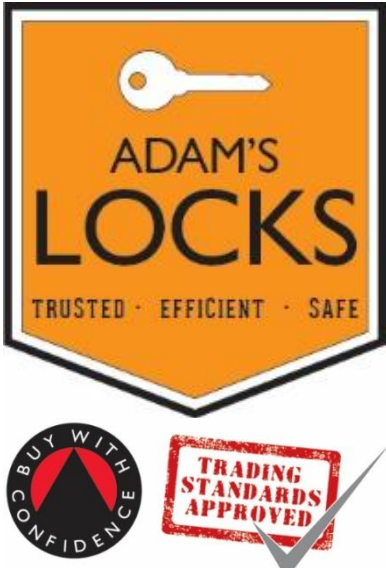
EAST COKER FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW TROPHY WINNERS 2024

Trophy	Winner and contact details	Total points
Maudsley Silver Challenge Cup for most points in show	Annette Beardsley	43
Archie Neville Memorial Cup for most points in Fruit & Vege Section	Sarah Owen	25
League of Friends Cup for most points in Flower section	Yvonne Shayler	23
Ralph Eacott plaque Best vase of dahlias	Mrs Isabel Eavis	
Pittard Rose Cup for 5 roses	Pearl Tuck	
Mrs Newman Cup for Gladioli	Pearl Tuck	
Jane Harvey Pot Plant Salver	Elaine Gilmore	
Don White Challenge Cup Best fuchsia in show	Not awarded	
Molly Kettlewell Herb Cup	Jackie Glover	
Miss Keefe Cup Most points in Floral Art	Helen Styles	12
Drake Memorial Cup Most points in Homecraft	Debbie Raines	28
Eileen Doye Memorial Cup Best jam	Matt Harrington	
Joan Williams Cup for Most points in Jams & Jellies	Jackie Glover	10
Christine Mead Cup For best Craft	Sue Edmonds	15
Mrs Wilcox Posy Bowl Novice Art	Sue Edmonds	
Society Photographic Trophy	Annette Beardsley	18
John Whittock Memorial Challenge Cup - For judge's favourite (photo)	George Rowswell	
Olive Sharman Photographic Award	George Rowswell	
East Coker Gardening Club Cup Children's classes – under fives	Poppy Saunders	17
Gloria Mead Cup Children's classes – 6-9 years	Fred Raines	15
Miss E B Drake Challenge Cup Children's classes – 10-15 years	Charlie Pennock	12
Doreen Bates Cup for most points in children's classes	Poppy Saunders	17

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 now start work on the 2025 Show, the volunteers who assist with heaving the tables, who 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 many local businesses and individuals who generously donated the raffle prizes. The Gardens Group kindly provided the exhibitor and prize cards, and the seeds for the sunflower competition. Thanks also to Mary Ashley 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 16 August 2025** 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.



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EAST COKER GARDENING CLUB

Yet another summer of very 'unsummery' weather – temperatures were not conducive to seed germination, and there has been so much rain. However, gardeners are a resilient lot, determined and ever hopeful.

During the last few months, members have heard about naughty plants, the flora of north and south Greece, enjoyed a tour of the gardens at Hymerford House followed by afternoon tea at the garden of two of our members, and had an illustrated talk on the Jurassic Coast by a club member. In June, on a true summer's day, we enjoyed a trip to Fursdon House, where the Fursdon family has lived since 1259, and continue to live today. Up a narrow country lane – thank goodness we had a skilful coach driver - set in stunning Devon countryside the house and grounds were beautiful, with an interesting history; the staff provided excellent tea/coffee and cakes, and we were able to partake of our packed lunches in the gardens or courtyard. We now enter the autumn and winter months, with longer evenings – time to plant bulbs and to get out the catalogues and plan next year's sowing and planting.

The geranium plants distributed earlier in the year were judged at our August meeting. Our members had grown some superb specimens.

The programme for the next few months is as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Thursday 10 October | RHS Gardens set to Music – David Moon |
| Thursday 14 November | Capability Brown's approach to Garden Design – Pam Simpson
Followed by the Annual General Meeting . |
| Thursday 12 December | The 12 Days of Christmas – a light-hearted look at the sort of gifts you might request from your true love instead of milkmaids, drummers or leaping lords. |

We try to provide a varied programme during the year. We are always happy to welcome visitors and new members; whether 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. Bulbs will be distributed in the autumn for the competition to be held next Spring. Day trips are arranged to places of interest.

We are a friendly lot – why not join us for an enjoyable, sociable evening? You do not need to be good at gardening; talks cover a wide variety of subjects. The annual subscription is 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 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 me 01935 862447.

Helen

EAST COKER CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Saturday 7 December
East Coker Hall
Sittings at Midday or 2.00pm.
Adults: £20
Children under 12: £15

In aid of East Coker Hall & Yeovil Hospital Breast Cancer Unit

The lunch includes starter, Christmas roast with all the trimmings, dessert, tea/coffee and a glass of wine (for adults).

To book, please contact Mary Foster, 07816 475339 or email mary.brace@btinternet.com.

FILM NIGHTS

Our Autumn 2024 Wednesday Film Nights at East Coker Hall start at 7.00pm. Tickets are £8pp.

Wednesday 30 October 'Wonka': (2023) PG



This is set before Willie Wonka opened the Chocolate factory in Roald Dahl's story. Here Willie Wonka is young and poor, and he is struggling to set up his own shop.

It stars Timothée Chalamet as Wonka. 'Ghosts' writer Simon Farnaby is part of the screenplay's writing team.

No screenings in November or December. We hope to recommence screenings in January 2025.

The Hall opens at 7.00pm for tea and coffee. Red or white wine will be available to buy for £3 a glass

Please support your community by supporting your Village Hall.

Gill Evans

EAST COKER VILLAGE HALL CHARITABLE TRUST

As mentioned in previous copies of the East Coker Society Newsletter, the Hall roof has reached the end of its life and is to be replaced. A great deal of work has gone into this project, which is now in its final stages. The anticipated cost of these works and improvements is circa £110,000. We have now raised just over half of the funds needed. We are hopeful that applications in the pipeline for further grants will be successful. Any help towards raising funds for this project will be greatly appreciated, as will any donations towards the project.

We are working on various fundraising ideas, which we hope will be supported by users of the Hall and by our parishioners. 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.


Should you wish to donate to the fund, this may be done either via BACS or cheque:

Via BACS: Account name: East Coker Village Hall
Sort Code: 40-52-40
Account number: 00101770
By cheque: Made payable to East Coker Village Hall and sent to:
The Secretary, East Coker Village Hall, 21 Mill Close, East Coker BA22 9LF.

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 will be on the Hall website.

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 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>

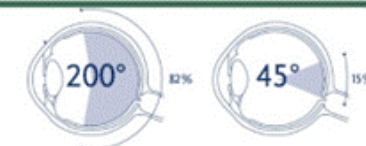


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EAST COKER POETRY GROUP - Forthcoming Events September 2024

Meetings are held in the Village Café, East Coker, BA22 9HY starting at 7.30pm.

NB The November and December meetings are on the Third Tuesday of those months.

Tuesday 29 October - The Uncompetition 2024 - Following the success of last year's format, we are again having an Uncompetition this year where there are no 'winners' only writers and readers. All entries will be read out at this meeting. Instead of poetry 'Judges', each entrant will also give a short 'critique' on one or two of the other entries. A chance to say what they liked and found in the poems they review.

The subject this year was a poem inspired by the theme 'Board Games'.

Tuesday 19 November - Take Two War Poets - 'Not Letting on' - Featuring poetry from two 1940s poets, - Alun Lewis and John Jarmain, presented by Juliet Lacey and author James Crowden.

Tuesday 17 December - Christmas Meeting

A light hearted meeting – Just bring pencil and paper and enjoy the evening. Mince pies, music and even some poetry I expect!

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, East Coker Poetry

Young People

EAST COKER SCOUT GROUP



Charlie and Faye, our two Explorer Scout Young Leaders, spent 15 days travelling across Europe in July / August alongside six other explorer scouts to complete their Explorer Belt award. They travelled by train to Holland, Germany, Switzerland and Italy – before taking 6 trains back-to-back from Rome to Yeovil.



International opportunities are highlights for anyone within scouting and they spent four days at Kandersteg International Camp site in Switzerland alongside scouts from across Europe where the scale of the mountains and the stunning scenery impressed as much as the icy lake swim. Whilst in Berlin, they visited Checkpoint Charlie and whilst in Naples wandered the ruins of Pompeii. An evening cooking lesson in Rome which included pizza and tiramisu making was far more successful than trying to cook 'local' cabbage soup in Berlin. The team presented the tales of their adventure to parents, scout leaders and the Crusader explorers as the final part on the Belt. Congratulations to all.

Our cubs have already been kayaking at Sutton Bingham and have a varied programme of activities planned for this term.

The scouts have been to the woods for fire lighting to cook bananas and pancakes. This term's activities include letterboxing on Dartmoor, a Day hike, County Challenge and a survival weekend. We currently have no beaver section as we have no adult team members to run this section. We would welcome contact from anyone who feels they could help us with our beavers (6-8 years old).

We run East Coker Scout Group with a small team of leaders and supporters. As well as looking for new beaver section team members, we are also seeking additional people to support our Trustee Board and Group Leadership Team who support the running of the Group.

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 one of our teams.

Thank you for all your support.

David Webber, Group Scout Leader
eastcokerscouts@gmail.com

1st East Coker Scout Group





WILLOW CHILDCARE

Exciting News from Willow Childcare!

We are thrilled to announce that Willow has officially relocated to the Pavilion at East Coker Recreation Ground, after 8.5 wonderful years at East Coker Primary School. Our new location provides us with much-needed additional indoor and outdoor space, and the children are fully embracing the daily walk to and from school!

In addition, we are now able to offer extended hours for children aged 3-years and above who attend East Coker Preschool. This ensures a smoother transition to primary school, helping children to form new friendships before they start 'big school'.

With a wide range of toys and games, the children have enjoyed fun activities such as bug hunts, meeting the local horses, picking blackberries, and visiting the park. We've also had great times playing football and making the most of our new surroundings.

If you're considering wrap-around care for your child, why not stop by one afternoon for a cup of tea and a chat? We'd love to meet you!

Opening hours:

- **Breakfast Club:** Monday to Friday, 7:45 am – 8:45 am
- **Afternoon Sessions:** Monday to Thursday, 3:30 pm – 5:45 pm

For more information, please contact Charlotte Whetham at 07801 530302 or email us at willowchildcare.eastcoker@gmail.com.

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

Autumn term has begun, and the playgroup is open to welcome new and returning families. We have been picking the carrots planted last term and enjoying them at snack time. Playdoh has been made, ingredients measured out and stirred vigorously by the children and carefully cooked by an adult. Once cooled, the fun continues, rolling, squashing, shaping, squeezing, pressing cutters into the doh and extracting the shapes. This one activity encompasses all areas of development and learning whilst having so much fun. This is only week three of the term and many more activities are planned alongside the child led free play!

Our next fundraising event will be on

Saturday 16 November 2024, 11.00am-3.00pm
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.

Please get in touch via the email below to book a stall
at this fundraising event, do it now due to limited availability.

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 07503 751133 or email office.ecplaygroup@gmail.com.

Eve Dudden

EAST COKER PRIMARY SCHOOL



We have had a fantastic start to our new academic year. The children are all looking extremely smart in their uniforms and teachers have been very impressed with their behaviour and attitudes to learning.

We have been having a bit of work done over the holidays, and thanks to the hard work of our Site Manager, we now have a lovely new fitted kitchen and newly painted Kingfishers room for our own Breakfast Club and After School Club service, which started in September. We are now open to our school community from 7.30am to 6.00pm! The children have been really enjoying making pinwheel pizzas for snacks, playing with all the toys and using the school grounds, despite the wet weather trying to put a dampener on things!

Over the past few years, we have been focusing on improving phonics across the school which resulted in us being in the top 2% of schools nationally, as we scored 100% in our phonics tests last year. We have been above national continually in this area for a few years, so this year we will be focusing more of our attention on Mastering Number from Reception to Year 3. We will be working with the Boolean Maths Hub to fully embed number across the lower age range so when they get to Year 4 and beyond, they are very confident and quick in their use of number.



We are in our second year of our Raising Attainment with Mental Health and Wellbeing and will be focusing on the role of peer mediators. Last year we were successful in achieving the gold award in National Whole School Wellbeing, which is the highest award presented, making us a National Wellbeing School.

Free whole class brass lessons for Year 3 are already underway (thanks to fundraising by the PTFA), and we have our Year 6 residential coming up in the next two weeks. Our topic this term is Scrumdidlyumptious, and we will be learning all about food. The older children will be finding out about the Mayans, and of course, they will be making and designing their very own chocolate bar!

Can you help us improve our Lunchtime Play?

As part of our lunchtimes, we are looking for items to support the children's play. If you were thinking of throwing out any of the following, we would gladly take it instead:

- **Sand Pit:** sand pit moulds, sand castle buckets, plastic rakes and sieves etc.

- **Dressing up area:** puppets, doctor/nurse kits, adult hats, adult waistcoats, scarves, wigs, clip on ties, dressing up clothes for older children (not Halloween), accessories, old computer keyboard, old telephones – not glass.
- **Wheel zone:** working scooters, toy cars and trucks, prams and buggies for dolls, soft toys which fit in a buggy.
- **Archaeological dig site:** dustpan and brush, range of clean make up brushes, paint brushes.
- **Imaginative play area:** plastic toy animals, dinosaurs, play mobile, dollies, Lego etc.
- **Art Area:** art/DIY paint brushes/rollers, clean paint trays, clean squeeze bottles, crafting supplies, chalks, wall paper or liner, paint trays (clean), rollers (clean), decorating brushes (clean), empty spray bottles, squeeze bottles.
- **Den Building area:** pegs, nets, wooden bits/planks/squares (no nails), old bunk bed ladders, wooden pallets, cable drums, pop up tents, cardboard or very large wooden boxes/crates, fabrics, outdoor cushions and rugs.

By the time of publication of this Newsletter, we will have held our **Open Day on Saturday 5 October** from 10.00am-12.00pm. This is an opportunity for prospective parents to have a good look around the school and find out what life is like for the children at East Coker Primary schools and the opportunities on offer.

If you feel you would like to offer your expertise to support the school, we would be more than happy to hear from you. If you would like to help at a strategic level, we have a vacancy in our governing body (see flyer accompanying this Newsletter). Meetings are once every three months at the school. Here we discuss the strategic direction of the school alongside discussions about 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.

Website www.eastcokerschool.co.uk

Jane Hesketh-Williams, Head Teacher, East Coker Primary School

East Coker Primary
RECEPTION 2025
Saturday 5th October 10-12
OPEN DAY

Come and meet the staff and governors and have a look around the school.

We have:
Onsite wrap around care 7.30am-6pm
Large field and playgrounds
Forest school & wildlife area
Strong focus on sport, music and the arts

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The Churches

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS' CHURCH

It has been a quiet summer for the church. Alongside our normal pattern of worship, much of our time has been spent preparing ourselves for the arrival of the new Rector, the Reverend Philip Macaulay. Phil's official installation service will take place on **7 October** at St Martin of Tours, West Coker – so by the time this newsletter goes to print he is likely to be in post.

We normally announce the dates and times of Christmas Services in this newsletter, but until Phil has formally taken over the position it has not been possible to plan in detail. What I am going to propose to him though is:

- **Carol Service – evening of 22 December**
- **Family Service – 10 o'clock Christmas Morning.**

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 321course 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! The 321course 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.

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'.

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

Marianne Thrower
Natural Therapy
MIFPA, LMAR



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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 29 October 13.50 – 14.10 – Helyar Arms
Tuesday 26 November 13.50 – 14.10 – Helyar Arms
Tuesday 7 January 13.50 – 14.10 – Helyar Arms

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

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 **RICS** If you have instructed another agent on a Sole Agency or Sole Selling Rights basis, the terms of those instructions must be considered to avoid a possible liability to pay two commissions. 

NEWS FROM OSR PROJECTS, WEST COKER

New - Thursday Morning Potters

These friendly and accessible sessions will take place on Thursday mornings 10:30am – 1.00pm at OSR Projects in West Coker. Thursday Morning Potters is suitable for all aged 16+, from total beginners to those looking to develop their skills or simply just to try something new. You will have the opportunity to develop a range of hand building, decorating, and finishing techniques.

£19 –7-week sessions – all clay and firings are included in the cost. (A reduced rate is offered, please enquire.) To book, please email info@osrprojects.co.uk <https://osrprojects.co.uk/community-clay> for more information.

Half term potters

Come and make a pinch pot clay monster!

Thursday 31 October, 10.00am – 12.00pm. Suitable for the whole family, all welcome.

Children under 12 years must be accompanied by an adult.

£20 pp all clay, decoration and firings included.

To book your place please email info@osrprojects.co.uk or call 01935 862201

OSR Projects, Church St, West Coker BA229BD

Save the date - Od Arts Festival returns 23 – 25 May 2025

This wonderful arts festival takes place in venues in East and West Coker. More information here www.odartsfestival.co.uk.

If you would be interested in volunteering during the festival, please email chantelle@osrprojects.co.uk.

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 for 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 Clerk clerk@eastcokerparish.com or 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 on clerk@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 8 December 2024**.

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 settings have to 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..39 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 20mph school sign from the county council on the approach from Higher Burton, but this is on the way.

Cllr Carter-Uren

ART CLASSES

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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*

JANUARY TERMS 2025 BEGIN:

**TUESDAY CLASS 7TH - 13:05 - 15:05
WEDNESDAY CLASS 8TH - 13:30 - 15:30
SATURDAY CLASS 11TH - 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 October 2024

Tues 1 Oct	Mobile Library	1.50pm – 2.10pm	The Helyar Arms
Thurs 10 Oct	Gardening Club – RHS gardens set to music	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 12 Oct	RBL - Coffee Morning	10.30am – 12.00	West Coker Hall
Wed 16 Oct	East Coker Society AGM	6.30pm	The Dampier Room, East Coker Hall
Thurs 17 Oct	WI – Whist Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sun 27 Oct	British Summer Time Ends		
Tues 29 Oct	Poetry Croup - The Uncompetition 204	7.30pm	Village Café
Tues 29 Oct	Mobile Library	1.50pm – 2.10pm	The Helyar Arms
Wed 30 Oct	Film Night - Wonka		East Coker Hall
Thurs 31 Oct	WI – Celebration Garlands	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 6 Nov	Wine Circle – Quiz-Nic	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 14 Nov	Gardening Club – and AGM	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 16 Nov	WI - Bingo	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Sat 16 Nov	Playgroup - Christmas Market	11.00am – 3.00pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 19 Nov	Poetry – Poetry from the 1940's	7.30pm	Village Café
Thurs 21 Nov	WI – Whst Drive	7.00pm	East Coker Hall
Tues 26 Nov	Mobile Library	1.50pm – 2.10pm	The Helyar Arms
Thurs 28 Nov	WI – Willow Sculptures	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Wed 4 Dec	Wine Circle – Wine Tasting	7.30pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 5 Dec	WI – Christmas Meal	1.00pm	The Helyar Arms
Sat 7 Dec	East Coker Christmas lunch	Sittings Midday or 2.00pm	East Coker Hall
Thurs 12 Dec	Gardening Club – 12 Days of Christmas		
Sun 22 Dec	Carol Service	6.00pm	St Michael's Church
Wed 25 Dec	Christmas Day - Family Service	?	St Michael's Church
Tues 5 Jan 2025	Mobile Library	1.50pm – 2.10pm	The Helyar Arms

**Copy for the January 2025 Newsletter by
Sunday 5 January or before if possible**

Art Classes – January Term 2025 (see flyer above)

Begin Tuesday 7 January	13:05 – 15:05	East Coker Hall
Begin Wednesday 8 January	13:30 – 15:30	East Coker Hall
Begin Saturday 11 January	10:00 – 12:00	East Coker Hall