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The Chinnock Chimes

December 2024 / January 2025

Christmas cards by three of our talented local artists



Christmas Fox, by Diane Summer, dianesummer2@gmail.com



Botanical Christmas cards by Alison Finch, ali.finch@openworld.com



Winter, East Chinnock by Martin Harris, martinatthegables@btinternet.com



An Evening of Christmas Traditions explained

- Why do people eat turkey on Christmas Day?
- Why do they pull crackers?
- Why is it called Boxing Day?
- Why do they dream of a white Christmas?

Come and learn why we do some of the things we do at Christmas and perhaps share a family tradition of your own.

Monday 16 December
Village Hall, 6.30pm onwards

Mulled wine and mince pies
£3 per person (to cover Village Hall costs)

EDITOR

Welcome to this year's final issue! I'd like to take the opportunity to wish all of you a very happy and peaceful Christmas, and I hope that 2025 brings all that you hope for.

There are a number of events at St. Mary's Church and the Village Hall in the run up to the big day, which you are all welcome to take part in. Details are in this issue.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed photos, features, information or notices for this issue. Please keep it coming!

The deadline for the next issue is January 11th

Angela
thechinnockchimes@btinternet.com

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Portman Arms/Woodentop Inn

Somerset Council have published revised plans for the erection of 6 dwellings and garages on land to the rear of the pub. Based on the planning applications of 2020 and 2023, it no longer includes any changes to the pub itself. See Round Robin for links at: east.chinnock@gmail.com

Portman Community Park

Cllr Taylor reported that the fence and gate have now been painted. One of the metal benches has also been painted. One of the fence panels is currently missing. There is also a fence post that has rotted at the bottom and needs replacing but it is uncertain who owns the post. The chain-link fence also needs some attention. It was decided to ask the ranger to fix this, and they also mend fences.

The Church Clock

Cllr Goodes has been in touch with Gillett & Johnston re repairing the Church clock and has asked them to re-quote given the original quote has now expired, and also to clarify some of the work quoted for. They have responded with a new quote of £8500 in total (almost double what was originally quoted). This was clearly much more than the PC was expecting to pay, and the PC is now considering an alternative supplier. Cllr Goodes has mentioned this to Gillett & Johnston in the hope that they might make their quote more competitive and is exploring the implications of potentially using another supplier for the War Memorials Trust Grant.

Rights of Way

Mr Bussel reported that Somerset Council have done a good job clearing the fallen trees on the area of footpath (above Orchardleigh), but have unfortunately now blocked the ditch / silt trap while doing this! It is hoped that they will return to clear it. Cllr Goodes has also asked what they are doing to clear the stumps blocking the silt trap (and is awaiting a response) and he has also reported the poor surface of Back Lane adjacent to 'The Rookery'.

SCOUT'S DELIVERY SERVICE

To have your Christmas cards delivered to East Chinnock, West Coker, Hardington, Pendomer, Oddcombe, East Coker and Yeovil, place your cards and money (40p per card) in a bag and put into the boxes at St. Mary's Church or at 'Pippin', 3 Orchard Leigh.

Boxes will be collected on December 10th.

FEOFFEES

Feoffees is the village poors' land Charity, which owns the Village Hall, Old School House and a field at the bottom of the village which is currently leased to the Seyfrieds of Broad Lane.

The Committee has representatives from the Church and the Parish Council as well as some independent bodies; funds are used for the benefit of the villagers of East Chinnock.

Currently, the Feoffees send vouchers to any villagers who have spent two nights in hospital, and to those who have been bereaved during the year.

They propose to also give vouchers to new parents in the village, and would be grateful for notification of any new arrivals.

They are open to applications in the case of hardship, or anyone needing funds for extraordinary purposes. Funds must cover the upkeep of the Village Hall and Old School house, therefore large sums may not be available.

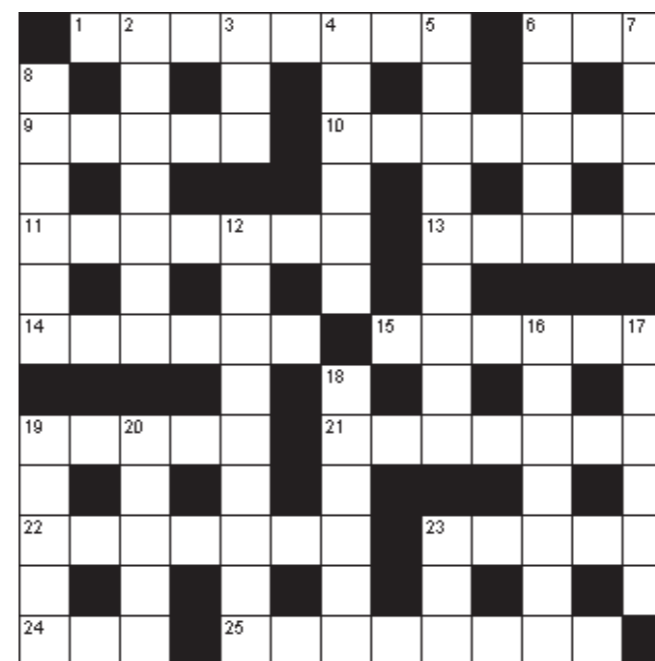
HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

Anyone who is struggling with the cost of living can apply for support to the above fund. To apply, visit the Somerset County Council website and search for 'Household Support Fund' or call 0300 123 2224

USEFUL CONTACTS

Somerset Council	District/County Councillor	Post Office (Village Hall)	Yeovil Hospital	Crewkerne Health Centre (appointments)	Beavers (6-8 years)	Scouts Active Support (adults)
0300 123 2224	Oliver Patrick 07969 269416 oliver.patrick@southsomerset.gov.uk	Monday 1pm - 3pm Tuesday 9am - 12pm	01935 475122	01460 72435	Heather Pitts 01935 433840	Pete Divall 01935 422328
South Somerset District Council	Parish Council Chairman	Village Hall	Westlake Surgery	Preschool, Baby & Toddler Group	Cubs (8-10 ^{1/2} -yrs) Scouts (10 ^{1/2} -14yrs)	Guides, Brownies, Rainbows
01935 462462	Duncan Goodes 07806 791320 chinnock.hollow@outlook.com	Booking & Keys Martin Harris 01935 864582 martinatthegables@btinternet.com	01935 862212	Kay Strode 07503 751133	James Divall 01935 863105	westcoker@girlguiding-somerset.org.uk
County Councillor	Parish Council Clerk	Entertainments Committee Chair	Westlake Dispensary	Pre - School (under 5's)	Explorers (14 - 18 years)	FEOFFEES
Mike Hewitson mikehewitson@somerset.gov.uk	Nancy Chapman ecparishcouncilclerk@yahoo.co.uk	Pat Lock 01935 863899	01935 865104	07798 812 540 or see East Coker Pre-school Facebook page	Mike Beckerleg 01935 862719	John Cox - Chairman 01935 863304 Jane Lock - Clerk 01935 863899

Crossword Puzzle



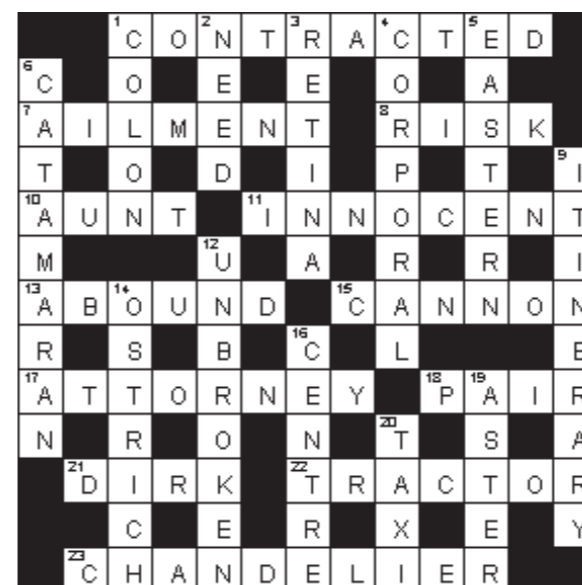
Across

- 1 Made to feel at home (8)
- 6 Burnt remains (3)
- 9 Mature (5)
- 10 Heart of a nuclear power station (7)
- 11 Open grassland (7)
- 13 Crazy (5)
- 14 High-kicking dance (6)
- 15 Pronounce not guilty (6)
- 19 Defile, sully (5)
- 21 Italian rice dish (7)
- 22 High level ground (7)
- 23 Church instrument (5)
- 24 Animal collection (3)

Down

- 2 Make intelligible (7)
- 3 Swindle (3)
- 4 Wonder (6)
- 5 Snags (9)
- 6 Modify (5)
- 7 Tough (5)
- 8 Cancer or Capricorn (6)
- 12 John Bull's food (5,4)
- 16 Tense, repressed (7)
- 17 Prickly plants (6)
- 18 In the vicinity (6)
- 19 Yellow precious stone (5)
- 20 Insect in its adult form (5)
- 23 Lubricant (3)

Crossword Solution to the Previous Issue



Entertainments Committee

The Entertainments Committee own a marquee and 6 gazebos, which are available for private hire to East Chinnock villagers



Contact Pat Lock for further information and booking on 01935 863899

Marquee: 20m x 7m - £175 for a maximum of 3 days

Gazebos: 3m x 3m with sides - £30 each for a maximum of 3 days

The gazebos can easily be erected by the hirer, however, the marquee will be erected by Pat and his team, who will require at least 3 additional people (organised by the hirer) to assist in erection.

The hirer is required to ensure that they have adequate insurance in place to protect against damage or loss.

LOTTERY WINNERS

October	1st Jane Lock 2nd Jean Beasley
November	1st Ros Weber 2nd Ann Hunt

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COLOUR ME IN



CHRISTMAS countdown calendar



BOOKS!
 There are books available in the Village Hall which are free for you to take or borrow whenever the hall is open.



There are 2 Table-Tennis tables available at the Village Hall
 All you need to do is book the hall, bring your friends, bats and balls along for a fun session.

Worship Services 1st Dec 24/26th Jan 25

Sunday 1st Dec	9.15am Holy Communion at St Mary's church
Sunday 8th Dec	5pm Celtic Evening Prayer (sung)
Sunday 15th Dec	9.45am for 10am start Café Church, East Chinnock Village Hall
Tuesday 17th Dec	7pm Carol Service at St Mary's church
Sunday 22nd Dec	10am Holy Communion at St Mary's church
Tuesday 24th Dec	(Christmas Eve) 4.30pm Crib service at St Mary's
Wednesday 25th Dec	(Christmas Day) NO service at East Chinnock BUT
Do join us at	10am Family Holy Communion at Hardington church
	10.30am Family Holy Communion at East Coker church
	11am Family Service at West Coker church
	11.30am Family Holy Communion at Pendomer church
Sunday 29th Dec	10am BENEFICE Holy Communion at St Mary's church
Sunday 5th Jan	9.15am Holy Communion at St Mary's church
Sunday 12th Jan	5pm Evening Prayer at St Mary's church
Sunday 19th Jan	9.45am for 10am start Café church, East Chinnock Village Hall
Wednesday 22nd Jan	11am Home Communion *Probably at the Room @ the Park, but see below.
Sunday 26th Jan	10am Holy Communion at St Mary's

**to confirm time and venue of Home Communion contact me on gilliantettmar@gmail.com or 862003*

Note the Holy Communion on the first Sunday in the month will be at 9.15am, but the good news is that we now have a second Holy Communion in St Mary's on the 4th Sunday of the month at 10am.

Prayer for village.

In December we are praying for households in Weston Street, Forge Lane, Weston Farm and the cottages along Cleaves Track, and in January we are praying for households in Orchardleigh, Springfields and Orchard Close. Please do let us know any prayer requests you have. We would be glad to join our prayers with yours. The dedicated and confidential email to send prayer requests is prayeratstmarys@gmail.com

You can check for updated news for St Mary's East Chinnock and relevant Benefice News on the Church Near You website <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11012/> or by using the QR code on this page.



Gillian Tettmar

Soup lunches Dec 24 - April 25

- December 11th St Mary's, contact Liz Murdoch 01935 863209
- January 8th East Chinnock WI
- February 12th Gardening Club
- March 12th Bunty Andrews
- April 9th Village Hall

Please see notices for booking details.

Concert at St. Mary's

Come on December 12th 7pm to hear Stancheater Quire. They will sing traditional carols with readings. Raffle and drinks available.
 No tickets, collection on the day for Friends of St. Mary's.

Toilet Project at St. Mary's

As many villagers are aware St. Mary's has been fundraising for this project for several years. At last, all permissions needed are in place and it is hoped that the work will commence in early 2025. Because of the delays, all the costs have increased so we will need to do more fundraising to reach the full cost. So many have been very generous, and will see shortly how the money is being spent.



Photo courtesy of Peter Jory

October 9th, Soup Lunch

We have just finished our first stint at organising the village soup lunch.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the kind people who made soups and puddings for us, and an even bigger thank you to Gillian, Gill and Carol for helping with serving and washing up.

We have raised an amazing £157 for St Margaret's Hospice; this charity is very close to my heart as I have worked for the hospice as a community palliative care nurse for 21 years. Thank you again to everyone who attended.

Fiona Harnett and Shareen Parker

11th October, Quiz Night

Thanks to everyone who came to the Quiz Night on 8 November in the Village Hall. A fun evening was had by all (I hope!) although feedback for next time is that questions need to be a bit easier!

I am happy to report that £226.26 was raised for the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance.

Sara Russell



October 25th, Pub Night

This event was a very well attended and highly enjoyable evening, no doubt enhanced by the presence of the 'A Slice of Salerno' Pizza Horsebox parked outside the Village Hall.

The pizzas were excellent and hopefully will become a regular event.

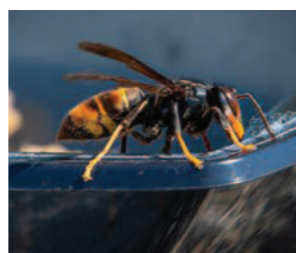


Villager Brian Kemp is known to many here as a local beekeeper and we enjoyed an evening of learning all about the little insects when Brian gave us a talk on **Wednesday 9 October**.

Brian has been keeping bees for 10 years and has had up to 6 colonies. Sadly, with the dreadful weather this year he was unable to produce any honey.

He described the differences between bees, bumble bees, wasps and hornets. There are 270 different types of bee! If you happen to see an Asian Hornet or a nest, this needs to be reported to a local beekeeper (there are 44,000 in the UK) or to The British Beekeepers Association so that action can be taken urgently as they are potentially very dangerous to the survival of our native bees. Asian Hornets can be differentiated from the European Hornet quite easily - Asian Hornets have a black head a single yellow stripe at the base of their abdomen, the European Hornet is more colourful

It takes 12 bees in their short lifetimes to make a teaspoon of honey. 80% of the produce we consume is pollinated by bees. We need to look after our little buzzy friends



We had a really entertaining evening at WI in the Village Hall on **Wednesday 13 November**. Local Morris Dancer Pip Oxenbury came and gave us a talk about his long involvement with Morris Dancing and a demonstration, ably assisted by four brave volunteers.

Morris Dancing appears to have been around since the days of Henry VIII. The term "Morris" is derived from "Moorish", although Morris Dancing has no known historical connection to the Moors.

Sara Russell



REGULAR EVENTS

Coffee Mornings

10:30am - 12:00pm on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday in the Hall.

Post Office

Monday 1:00pm - 3:00pm, Tuesday 9:00am - 12:00pm every week in the Hall.

E.C. Gardening Club

7:00pm on the 3rd Monday in the Hall.

E.C. Art, Craft & Social Group

2:00 - 4:00pm on the 1st Wednesday in the Hall. □

Saturday Morning Cafe

10:00 - 12:00am on the 1st Saturday in The Room@The Park.

Mens Breakfast

8.30am on the 3rd Saturday of the month in the Room@the Park, Telephone Richard Kirlaw: 07966 754110 or John Chappelle: 07887 875622 for further details.

Mobile Library

Every four weeks on Route "E" .

St. Mary's Cafe Church

9:45am on the 3rd Sunday in the Hall..

Monthly Working Bee - Portman Community Park

10:00-12:00 - 1st Saturday of the month . Drop by give a hand with weeding planters, plants taking hold to cover fence.Coffee and cake available at Room on the Park.

Soup Lunches

2nd Wednesday of the month, please see notices for details.

E.C. WI (Women's Institute)

7:30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Hall.

Pilates

3:30pm - 5:00pm every Thursday in the Hall. Seated and Mat, Telephone Sharon Smith: 07715 0782 for details.

Qi Gong

10:30am - 12:00pm every Thursday in the Hall . Telephone Robin Sheldrake: 07990 506833 for details.

Kurling

10am - 1pm every Friday in the Hall. Telephone Ros Weber: 07866 040688 for further details.

OTHER EVENTS

Pop-Up Pub

Friday 22 November - 8 -11pm, Village Hall

Tuesday 31 December, New Year's Eve

8:00pm -12.30am

Bring your own drinks and nibbles, dogs welcome, £2 per person (towards Village Hall costs).

Extracts from 'Somerset Remembers'
Compiled by
Somerset Federation of Women's Institutes,
published 1978

Recollections of Country
People - East Chinnock
Courtesy of Marianne Merchant

An unusual feature of the village is the number of natural springs, the rights of which were reserved to Lord Portman when the estate was sold in the early 1900s. The springs were the only source of water supply until mains water was installed. A number remain and one is still the sole source of supply to one of the farms. Owing to redevelopment the course of some springs has been interfered with and diverted.

In olden days the village was closely knit to agriculture and boasted a wheelwright and carpenter's shop, a cider house where the cider press wheel was turned by a horse, a bakery renowned for its Easter Cakes and Gingerbread, a blacksmith, and lace and glovemaking in the cottages.

The village men were chiefly agricultural workers. The wives and daughters worked machines making gloves and taking them to the Yeovil factories, their houses were spotless. The houses are built of local stone from Ham Hill. The front gardens each side of the road had lilac, snowball and chainey (laburnam) trees. Now because of traffic the gardens are half as wide and the trees are gone. Everyone knew each other and families intermarried; only six families were not related.

The excitement of the first motor through the village was wonderful. If and when one came through during school hours, we were allowed to go into the yard and watch it and then back to lessons.

The Church is Perpendicular and was built in 1091. It has many interesting features not the least five stained glass windows which were given and installed after World War II by a German ex-Prisoner of War as a token of thanks to the farmers and villagers for their kindness to him. The German and his family have returned to the village on a number of occasions and always telephones the farmer each Christmas Day to send compliments to friends.

In bygone days the highlight of the year was the annual Friendly Society Club walk. It started with a service at the Church and then with banners unfurled the members walked around the village enjoying dancing and refreshments at several houses before adjourning for a lunch for the men and a tea for the ladies. A Women's Club was held on the Wednesday of Whit week, all dressed in white with pink belts and the Men's Club on Thursday wearing blue rosettes. Charlie Axe carried the large banner each day, headed by South Petherton Band called "Star of the West". Outside the Portman Arms two stalls were erected to sell cakes, sweets and various china articles. There were swing boats, round-a-bouts and coconut shies and everybody enjoyed themselves. Recently the Harvest Supper has been revived when villagers spend a jolly evening together celebrating the Gathering of the Harvest, which, despite many people having left the land to work in neighbouring towns, is still a vital part of our heritage.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Coffee mornings are held on the **first and third Wednesday** of each month, 10.30am - 12.00pm.

Prices:

Coffee and biscuits £1.50.
Additional coffees £1.00



SOUP LUNCHES AUTUMN/WINTER 2024

December 11th St Mary's,
contact Liz Murdoch 01935 863209

January 8th East Chinnock WI

February 12th Gardening Club

March 12th Bunty Andrews

April 9th Village Hall

Please see notices and media for booking.



ART, CRAFT & SOCIAL GROUP

2.00pm - 4.00pm on the first Wednesday of every month

Come and meet like-minded Art & Crafters, bring your own materials.

£2.00 per session
(includes tea and coffee).

For more information, contact:

Gerald Witcher: 01935 862602,
gwitcher@btinternet.com

Jane Lock: 01935 863899,
patricklock440@yahoo.co.uk



CAN ANYONE HELP?

A gentleman called **John Hockey** from Kent visited the Chinnocks during the summer and purposely left in the church a copy of his family tree. His forebears come from the Chinnocks and he would love to hear from anybody with that surname in case a family connection can be made. He is happy for anyone to ring, and if anyone knows someone with that name for them to be contacted on his behalf. His telephone numbers are 01795 522600 and 07939 227704.

Alex and I currently have the family tree in our study if anyone is interested in having a look! And if that's before we return, John Chappelle would be able to retrieve it for them!

Claire & Alex Swarbrick



At the Village Hall

Monday 1.00pm - 3.00pm
Tuesday 9.00am - 12.00pm

EAST CHINNOCK GARDENING & COUNTRYSIDE CLUB, & PORTMAN COMMUNITY PARK

Working Bees take place on the first Saturday of each month between 10.00am - 12.00 noon. Coffee and cake is available in the Room@thePark.

Come along. bring a trowel, help plant some flowers for pollinators, have fun and make new friends

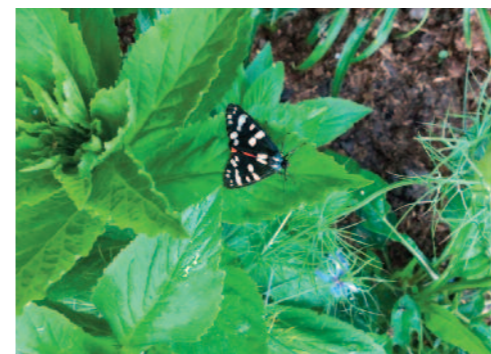


East Chinnock WI (Women's Institute) meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 7.30 at The Village Hall. New members are always welcome. There is a monthly programme of events and plenty of friendly faces to meet. You can come to a couple of meetings and see if it's for you before you commit to membership.

PLEASE REMEMBER -

After using the hall, ensure that light and heating switches are turned off, the floors are swept and it is left clean and tidy. **Also, please ensure that you put the latch down on the Yale lock of the outer door when leaving.** To make a booking, see the 'Useful Contacts' list on page 2. The hiring cost is £8.00 per hour.

East Chinnock Gardening and Countryside Club



The Club is one of the groups that are part of the Village Community. We aim to provide a series of interesting talks that help us all make adjustments in our gardens to the changing climate. With substantial reduction in numbers of essential pollinating insects and wildlife, our gardens are vital for sustaining our Countryside.

We are also involved in the public space of Portman Park, maintaining planters, planting new plants (we don't just talk about plants, we do a lot about planting). To share gardening in company makes the whole experience enjoyable. We learn from each other and exchange seeds, seedlings and produce.

At the AGM there were excellent suggestions to encourage gardeners of all ages. The Annual Show this year showed how the effects of long wet spells affect flowers and vegetables and the adaptations we need to make in the ever evolving process of growing in our gardens.

Memberships are due now, Just £16 per year covers entry to the whole programme. For any details, please contact ECGCC Secretary - dianesummer2@gmail.com. We encourage you to come along to the next meeting.

Meetings are generally held on the 3rd Monday evening of the month, 7.00 for 7.15pm start.

2025

Jan 20	QUIZ	Food provided	BYO drinks
Feb 17	Talk	Water Features Designs for Gardens	Ben Garner of Water Artisans
March 17	Talk	Growing and Showing	Ian Hallett (Show Judge)
April 14	<i>(NB 3rd Monday is Easter)</i>		
	Talk	Growing Organic Vegetables	Brian Hesketh
May 19	Plant Swap plus tool and knife sharpening service		
June TBA	Cream Tea in a member's garden		
July 26 (Saturday)	Village Show		
Sept 15	Talk	Preparing the Garden for Winter	
Oct 20	AGM		

West Coker & Hardington Cricket Club end of season review

The Halves Lane Jubilee Pavilion hosted our Annual Dinner on October 5th, where we enjoyed catering by Dorset Delights and music from Used Notes. We were able to celebrate our many achievements on and off the pitch and give thanks to our volunteers, from committee members, to coaches, team leaders, groundstaff and of course the delicious cricket teas! Thanks also to New Inn, Royal Oak, Saunders Butchers and Somerset CCC for their generous raffle prizes.

After Sophie Witcher's 'Growing The Game' award at the County Ground (pictured with Somerset CCC CEO Jamie Cox), it was fitting that she had the floor first, reflecting on the inaugural season of Women's cricket at Halves Lane and the camaraderie among the group of nearly 20 players, many of whom were new to the game. The team ended the season with a respectable 5th in the Gibson Softball Pairs League.

Our Junior Section continues to thrive, and the success of our Friday night All Stars and Dynamos programme has seen numbers of 5-11 year olds grow to nearly 40 over the last couple of years. This success has enabled us to start junior teams representing West Coker & Hardington, with both U10 and U12 age groups now playing competitive cricket.

Our Sunday team, The Panthers, are now in their 2nd season at Halves Lane and they now have a solid core of players looking for more than just friendlies. As a result they have applied to join the Mid Wessex League which will hopefully bring competitive cricket to Halves Lane on Sundays.

Will Brooks continued to run his mid-week team and is always looking to welcome players who want to enjoy a bit of social cricket and work up a thirst (not necessarily in that order!)

Our Saturday Somerset Cricket League (SCL) team were hampered by the poor drainage at Halves Lane early in the season, and had 4 out of 9 home games cancelled. This robbed us of opportunities to secure more points and as result we finished 3rd from bottom. We will be playing in SCL Div. 5 South next year, but hope to bounce straight up!

We also hosted several events for the Somerset Cricket Foundation, including boys and girls tournaments for teams from South Somerset and sessions for Super 1's disability cricket. There has been great feedback from organisers and parents, praising our facilities, hospitality and warm welcome.



Finally, 2025, is an important year as we celebrate 50 years as a Club, starting in Hardington next to The Royal Oak in 1975 and then moving to West Coker and Halves Lane 3 years later. We will be planning a few key events during the summer, once we know our fixtures, and of course welcome anyone interested in becoming a club member or sponsor.

For more information about playing, volunteering, sponsorship, then please e-mail westcokerhardingtoncc@gmail.com

Bonfire night was well attended and the weather was kind.

A big thank you to Pat Lock and his team from the Entertainments Committee and the volunteers for another spectacular evening.

The bar and barbecue were well patronised and the whole event was excellent, as usual.



Photo courtesy of Olly Greenslade



The winning Guy, with Ava & Edward Sweatmanthe Guys creators with a little help from me.

Photo from Andrea Biscoe



Thank you to Sara Russell and Martin Harris for the additional photos.

