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The Chinnock Chimes

February/March 2025



East Chinnock Christmas Fair, Friday 29th November 2024



There was a warm, friendly vibe at the Village Hall for the Christmas Fair on Friday 29 November and the place was buzzing with people. Thank you to everyone who came and supported it.

The Koala's name was Chandler - won by Casper Rowe.

There were 707 Smarties in the bottle - won by Jenny Symes with the closest guess of 710.

The North Pole Treasure was located under the Elves Village - a pile of goodies was won by Sue Lock.

EDITOR

Hello everyone and welcome to our first 2025 issue. I hope you all had a splendid Christmas, I'm sure we're all now looking forward to Spring and hopefully some better weather soon.

Thank you to those who organised and those who attended the Christmas Fair and the New Year's Eve Pop up Pub night, both big successes. There are a lot of people in this village who put an awful lot of work and effort into putting on the various activities throughout the year, and it's rewarding to see them well attended and appreciated.

Thank you also to the people who send in their reviews of events attended, items of general interest and photographs for publication. Without all your contributions this Newsletter would not exist!

The deadline for the next issue is March 11th.

Best wishes
Angela

A big "Thank You"

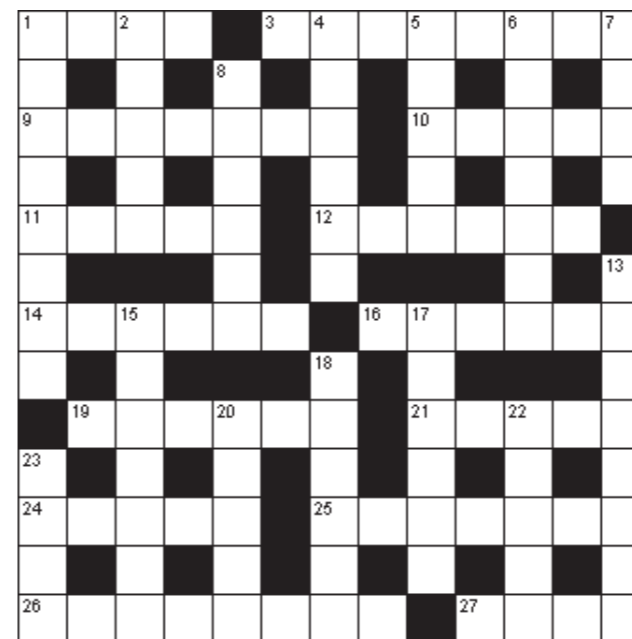
Back in September, lots of folk came together in the Village Hall for a lunch organised by Liz Murdoch to raise funds for the organisation Claire and Alex Swarbrick were going to Nepal to work with during October and November.

A staggering £1,300 was raised through people's amazing generosity, for a project providing "assistive devices" to support individuals with disabilities in the Dang region of Nepal.

While they were in Nepal, Claire and Alex spoke with some wheelchair-using beneficiaries of the project, and the "Thank You" message has been put on the village notice board.



Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 1 Renowned Swedish pop group (4)
- 3 Indoor footwear (8)
- 9 Chat (7)
- 10 Armed services canteen (5)
- 11 Russian president (5)
- 12 Bivalve mollusc (6)
- 14 US coin (6)
- 16 Artist's workroom (6)
- 19 Monday (anag.) (6)
- 21 Arms and legs (5)
- 24 Of the kidneys (5)
- 25 Hedge sparrow (7)
- 26 Verdure (8)
- 27 Blood vessel (4)

Down

- 1 Notorious gangster (2,6)
- 2 Constructed (5)
- 4 Bequest (6)
- 5 Sudden uncontrollable fear (5)
- 6 Made possible (7)
- 7 Go by boat (4)
- 8 Momentary pain (6)
- 13 Abandoned, deserted (8)
- 15 Pungent red pepper (7)
- 17 Sharp hooked claws (6)
- 18 Over there (6)
- 20 Exhausted (3,2)
- 22 Elk (5)
- 23 Nautical drink (4)

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

December

- 1st Nick Weber
- 2nd Marianne Merchant
- 3rd Carol Jeffries

January

- 1st Viv and Ted Tierney
- 2nd Roger and Julie Jewell

USEFUL CONTACTS

Somerset Council	Parish Council Chairman	Post Office (Village Hall)	Yeovil Hospital	Crewkerne Health Centre (appointments)	Beavers (6-8 years)	Scouts Active Support (adults)
0300 123 2224	Duncan Goodes 07806 791320 chinnock.hollow@	Monday 1pm - 3pm Tuesday 9am - 12pm	01935 475122	01460 72435	Heather Pitts 01935 433840	Pete Divall 01935 422328
County Councillor	Parish Council Clerk	Village Hall	Westlake Surgery	Preschool, Baby & Toddler Group	Cubs (8-10 ^{1/2} -yrs) Scouts (10 ^{1/2} -14yrs)	Guides, Brownies, Rainbows
Oliver Patrick 07969 269416 oliver.patrick@somerset.gov.uk	Nancy Chapman ecparishcouncilclerk@yahoo.co.uk	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	Citizens Advice Bureau	Entertainments Committee Chair	Westlake Dispensary	Pre - School (under 5's)	Explorers (14 - 18 years)	FEOFFEES
Mike Hewitson mikehewitson@somerset.gov.uk	Petters Way Yeovil BA20 1SH 0808 2787842	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 Solution to the Previous Issue



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Photographs by Martin Harris



Reverend Phil Macaulay

**Happy New Year and Hello to East Chinnock!
6th January 2025**

I write on the Feast of the Epiphany, an ancient Christian Festival when the church remembers the story of the Magi coming with their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the infant Jesus (Gospel of Matthew chapter 2). It is also connected with the story of the adult Jesus' own baptism by John the Baptist that commenced his ministry, together themes of beginnings and journeys. I just had the joy of leading a very joyful assembly with the children at West Coker School where we thought together about how faith encourages us on long and difficult journeys.

I have been Rector/Vicar of the Coker Ridge Benefice, including St Mary's Church East Chinnock since early October and it has been a bit of a whirlwind of meeting people and getting to know places. I feel immensely privileged to be in such a beautiful corner of the country and have found people to be full of kindness and grace. This journey for me I hope will be a long one, and I would love to be able to help all seven of the village communities to find spaces where they can be encouraged in their relationships with God and with one another. I do have a strong faith, and I've given my life to try to make sense of it and do my best to follow the Lord Jesus, but I know I'm probably not right about everything and certainly don't have all the answers. I trust each of you have your own stories of faith and thinking and I'd be very happy to listen as well as to share.

I'm so privileged to be able to look forward to at least one Wedding at East Chinnock this year, hopefully some christenings/baptisms, all the beautiful Holy Communion services and even Funerals can be powerful and precious occasions. I am so very grateful to all the wonderful volunteers and supporters of St Marys, whether they have lots of faith or a little, for this is your church.

2025 Special Plans

I am especially looking forward to some special events through the year, in addition to our regular services and the festivals you would expect like Christmas, Easter, Remembrance etc.

- I am looking forward to a special day celebrating Candlemas with you on Sunday 2nd Feb, including a presentation on the new Toilet and Servery project, full details below.



Photo courtesy of Peter Jory

- Patronal Festivals are special days we can use to celebrate our Church buildings and communities like the combination of having a Holy Communion service and some good food and drink together after. I am thinking of using the 'Feast of the Annunciation to St Mary' on Tuesday 25th March, to annually celebrate St Marys East Chinnock, but check in closer to the time as I plan around the building project.
- On Thursday 8th May at 6pm there is a special Evening Prayers and Reflection service for the 80th Anniversary of=Victory in Europe Day.
- I have some provisional ideas for a 'Coker Ridge Pilgrimage Weekend' over 6th-8th June where we encourage people to visit as many of the seven Churches at their own pace and engage with family friendly activities and prayer stations at each one.

Toilet and Servery Project

We are starting a significant new step in the journey of the church building in the coming months. After what I hear has been many years of planning, we are going to be finally constructing a toilet and servery within the church, in the north-west corner. This will greatly enhance our ministry with better hospitality and accessibility and the architect's plans look pleasing. We are going to have a special launch day for this project on Sunday February 2nd with details below of the project presentation and services that day. This is your church too, whether you come regularly or not, so we'd be delighted if you want to learn more and potentially give towards the project.

Thank you all for all that you already may be doing to support the journeys of this church, this village community and your neighbours. Thank you for every check-in phonecall you give to one another, every small chat, kind word or smile that builds up love and peace in this world. May God bless you and your household with peace and hope into the beginning of and throughout 2025.

Reverend Phil Macaulay
officecokerridge@gmail.com
07977849670
7 Cedar Fields, West Coker, BA22 9DB.

Worship Services Feb/Mar 25

Sunday February 2nd St Mary's Church, East Chinnock.
 9:15am Normal Monthly Holy Communion Service (every first Sunday of the month)
 4pm Presentation on the Toilet and Servery Project, followed by light refreshments.
 5pm 'Songs of Praise' style service for Candlemas with popular hymns.



Note
 Following the 9:15 Communion Service on Sunday 2nd February, the church building will remain open all day for people to drop in, find out more about the plans, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and cake, and for those who'd like to contribute, help us complete the fundraising, adding to the significant amount already raised.

Sunday 9th Feb 5pm Celtic Evening Prayer(sung)
Sunday 16th Feb 9.45am for 10am start Café Church, East Chinnock Village Hall
Sunday 23rd Feb 10am Holy Communion at St Mary's church
Wed 26th Feb ? 11am Holy Communion ? in the Room @ the Park(tbd)*
Sunday 2nd March 9.15am Holy Communion at St Mary's
Sunday 9th March 6pm (note later time) (short CW) Evening Prayer (and start of LENT SERIES with Rev Phil Macaulay on the book of Genesis)
Sunday 16th March 9.45am for 10am start Café Church, East Chinnock Village Hall
Sunday 23rd March 10am Holy Communion at St Mary's church
Wed 26th March ? 11am Holy Communion ? in the Room @ the Park(tbd)*

To confirm time and venue of Midweek Communions, 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.

Prayers for the village

In February we are praying for households in Weston Close and Underhayes Court, and in March we are praying for households in West Ways, Eastfield Farm, Cod Lane and Broad Lane. 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/> and using the QRcode on this page

Gillian Tettmar

Stanchester Quire at St. Mary's.

What a good event in Advent! A small audience enjoyed the singing of old West Country carols, a reminder of when they were often sung in pubs, as is the tradition still in some areas of Britain. There were short lively readings between singing and it was a thoroughly pleasant lead up to Christmas.

Thank you to everyone, as we were able to raise nearly £200 towards the toilet /servery project. Look out for the date in December 2025.



Photo courtesy of Alison Suter

My husband, David Balmford died peacefully on the 23rd November in Yeovil Hospital, he was 92 years old. My grateful thanks for all the support I have received and the lovely sympathy cards.

Kate Balmford

From the Village Hall Management Committee

Village Hall Heating

In the last Quarter there have been **two** occasions when hirers have left the heating on in the hall after their event. This has resulted in a significant cost to the finances of the hall, an increase of over £100 in the last month alone. The delay in discovering this can be days, hence the high cost!

PLEASE take care to ensure that ALL the heating is OFF before leaving the hall

Thank you on behalf of us all.
 Nick Weber. (Treasurer)

**Spring
Bingo**

In aid of British Heart Foundation and
 Fearne Animal Sanctuary

Saturday 12th April 25
East Chinnock Village Hall

Doors open 6.30pm for prompt 7.30 start

£8 per book (8 games) & £1 special (1)
 Raffle tickets £1 per strip

**To book your
place please
contact Jenny on
07944 516435**




East Chinnock Entertainments Committee presents a

QUIZ NIGHT
Saturday 22 March

? **Village Hall** ?

7.00pm

RAFFLE

Please bring your own
drink & nibbles

Teams of 4
 £5 per person
 payable on arrival

Proceeds to
St Margaret's Hospice

Register your team: sara.russell@btopenworld.com
 Text or Whatsapp to 07746 032299 / Tel: 01935 862796
 (this is so we know how many tables to put out)

From 22 January, local business **A Slice of Salerno Pizza Horse Box** will be serving fresh pizza outside the Village Hall from 4.30 to 8pm every other **Wednesday.**

- Wednesday 22 January
- Wednesday 5 February
- Wednesday 19 February
- Wednesday 5 March
- Wednesday 19 March
- Wednesday 2 April
- Wednesday 16 April

Pre-orders can be taken for collection in advance by WhatsApping 07534 008541 or send a Facebook Message to A Slice of Salerno Pizza Horse Box. They will also be outside the Village Hall on Pop-Up Pub nights (last Friday of the month) on Friday 31 January and Friday 28 February.

NOTE: any changes or cancellations to these dates will be posted on the East Chinnock Village Facebook page.



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 - NEW Times

Saturdays: 9.30 - 10am seated
10.15 - 11am mat

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 10am - 1pm until March 21st.
Telephone Ros Weber: 07866 040688 for further details.

POP UP PUB NIGHT

Friday January 31st - 8 - 11pm
Friday February 28th - 8 - 11pm
Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Dogs welcome.
£2 per person.

SOUP LUNCHES WINTER/SPRING 2025

February 12th	Gardening Club
March 12th	Bunty Andrews
April 9th	Village Hall

**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

**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

**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**

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.

Parish Council activity over the last quarter

I thought it might be helpful to share some things the Parish Council has been up to over the last few months. As you will know, the Parish Council (PC) is the most 'ground level' branch of local government and is focused entirely on the Parish: it is not party political and is not related to the Church (the Church has it's own 'Parochial Church Council'). Whilst our powers are limited, we work to make the Parish of East Chinnock a better place to live.

Councillors are unpaid and give of their time freely, and are supported by the Parish Clerk.

Here are some of the things we have been doing recently.

Entertainments Committee

The Entertainments committee is semi-autonomous but has the full support of the Parish Council and does a great job supporting social activities in the village. It works closely with the **Village Hall Committee**. Recently this has included organising and conducting:

The music night / Bonfire night / The pop up pub

Highways

We report issues to the County Council (CC) who are responsible for 'Adopted' roads and verges. Increasingly the CC are resource poor and we may need to take a bigger role and commission and pay for some remedial works ourselves in future. We also take an interest regarding unadopted roads in the village.

Recent issues have included:-

- * reporting flooding on Forge Lane
- * reporting blockage / obstruction of the silt trap on Green lane
- * reporting of damage to road surface on Back Lane
- * reporting flooding and damage to the verges along Westways
- * eliciting villagers views on the Chinnock Hollow closure and feeding them back to Adam Dance MP
- * repair to planters
- * ensuring bin emptying occurs

Please note, we are heavily dependent on Villagers highlighting issues to us which is always welcome. You can of course report things direct to the CC: most easily via the Somerset Council website (reporting to us as well is no bad thing!).

Paths and Byways

The Parish benefits greatly from a parishioner who works on a voluntary basis to keep paths and byways clear and in good repair. This service was recognised with a well deserved "Chair's Award" from Somerset Council last year.

Portman park

We lease Portman Park from the diocese of Bath and Wells and are responsible for the park and it's equipment.

Recent activities:

- * repainting benches
- * commissioning and paying for the annual safety audit
- * repairing and painting gates
- * establishing new contract for mowing / strimming and paying for it

Public Engagement

We try to engage with Parishioners so that we know what is important to you and what we can do to help.

Recent activities:

- * Logo competition
- * Facebook activity
- * Parish Council Agendas and Minutes are posted on the Parish notice-board by Portman Park

Ranger Scheme

The Parish Ranger ('lengthsman') scheme is a person employed for a day a month to help keep the village highways in good order and do other small maintenance jobs around the Parish.

- * new ranger funded by the PC following withdrawal of the CC scheme

Clock

As villagers will have noticed, the Church Clock has not been working for some time. Unusually the Clock is a War Memorial and is the responsibility of the PC rather than the Church. The cost of the repair amounts to half the annual income (the 'precept') for the PC.

- * getting a quote from an approved clock repairer
- * securing War Memorials Trust grant to reduce the impact on the PC budget
- * securing a 'faculty' from the diocese – this is permission to do the work ensuring it will not do any damage to the church. It's a long and involved process.
- * supporting the repair being done

Planning

The PC sees and comments upon Planning Applications for new builds and extensions etc. Our role is to offer a local perspective on such developments helping ensure they are harmonious with the rest of the village and that they will not cause unintended problems.

- * chasing enforcement order ref Portman Arms / Woodentop Inn
- * commenting on proposals for development of part of the Portman Arms site

General Business

- * initial budget setting
- * paying for third party insurance to cover PC activities and facilities
- * vacancies: **we have three vacancies** for Councillors at present: if you are interested you can contact the Parish Clerk (ecparishcouncilclerk@yahoo.co.uk) or indeed attend a Parish Council meeting (generally the first Monday of the month at 19.30hrs in the village hall).
- * liaison with VH Committee
- * liaison with Somerset Council over devolving of services
- * securing continued visiting Library Services
- * paying for the Village Post Office service
- * representing the Parish at local conferences and Networks

I hope this short summary gives some feel for the kind of things we get involved in as a Parish Council. If you would like to join us let us know.

Duncan Goodes

Chair

East Chinnock Parish Council

MINUTES OF MEETING OF EAST CHINNOCK PARISH COUNCIL Monday 2nd November 2024

Before the meeting commenced there was an opportunity for the public to speak:

A parishioner asked if the PC knew the current status of the section 215 notice for the Woodentop Inn. Cllr. Goodes replied that we have chased-up the enforcement team and they have responded saying that "the matter will not be closed until fully resolved and the case will remain open until full compliance has been obtained". A second parishioner is currently trying to sell their home, and believes the state of the pub car park is putting viewers off.

Cllr. Hewitson stated that progressing the court order could take many years, as this has happened in previous cases. Cllr. Goodes offered to contact Mr Richards again, asking him to address the state of the Car Park.

Cllr. Goodes asked the parishioners what their thoughts were on the new planning application for 6 new dwellings to potentially be developed in the area behind the pub car park. The reply was that this planning application could only be an improvement on the current state of the car park, as some of it would need to be cleared. There was some concern that the access is not ideal given the speed on vehicles on the A30. Broadly, the parishioners present supported the application.

A parishioner has complained that the verges and gullies on Westways have been compromised by traffic using the lane and may be unsafe as the barrier between the road and the stream is not clear now. There is also some flooding. Cllr. Goodes has previously raised this issue with Highways who have promised to visit and assess the situation. Cllr. Hewitson offered to chase this up with the Highways Department.

A lovely, friendly and informative evening took place in the Village Hall for the Evening of **Christmas Traditions Explained** on 16th December.

We learned the origins of Santa Claus and Father Christmas; what Coca-Cola has to do with Santa's outfit; why we have Christmas Trees and send Christmas cards and all manner of other Christmassy things.

Thank you to Nick Weber for reading, so brilliantly, "A Visit from St. Nicholas" by Clement Clarke Moore, and extra thanks to Amanda Ebborn and Claire and Alex Swarbrick for their contributions.



Sara Russell

The successful winter Indoor Kurling season was wrapped up with a Christmas meal at The Admiral Hood in Mosterton with the season winners being announced as the Blue Team. The individual top-scorer was Doug Reeve who won the traditional chocolate orange.

Photo by Elaine Seabrook



We had a very convivial get together at the Village Hall to see in the New Year. There was an appetising buffet provided and everyone brought their own choice of drinks.

Jenny Symes organised various party games which caused much hilarity.

Thank you to the Entertainments Committee and everybody else who contributed in putting on a very enjoyable evening.



Angela

Poppy Appeal 2024

Thanks to everyone who contributed, and for the assistance we received from Gill Harris and West Country Cars, with their help we were able to raise £6317, all of which will go directly to helping our Armed Services Community.

Special appreciation must go out to Gill, who year on year never lets us down. She has raised over £400 this year through her door-to-door collections. We are proud of the hard work and effort she puts in to support the Poppy Appeal each year and I very much hope it will continue.

£1,000 Donation

Our President, David Holland will be presenting a cheque, on behalf of the branch, for £1,000 to the Legion's County

Welfare Fund later this month at our annual county conference in Taunton. This would not be possible without the valued contributions from our supporters at events such as our annual cheese and wine evenings and other donations.

Annual Cheese and Wine Evening

A date for your Diary, we are already at the planning stage for the next Cheese and Wine Evening at East Coker Village Hall on 9th May. We have booked The HMS Heron Volunteer Band for what should be another great evening of music and good food.

Dave Giles

Chair East/West Coker Branch.

