

Coaley Parish NEWSLETTER

Issue no 121

December 2021 / January 2022



Panto Review

Christmas Events

New Shop Success

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
Dec 1st	Christmas Tree Lighting	6.00 pm	Shop	
Dec 5h	Christmas Bazaar	2.00pm- 4.30pm	Hall	
Dec 12th	Words and Music for a Winter Afternoon	3.00 pm	Church	
Dec 19th	Carol Service	4.00 pm	Church	
Dec 24th	Christmas Communion	9.30 pm	Church	
Dec 25th	Christmas Service	9.30 am	Church	

Parish Council meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month, except August, at 7.30pm. We have returned to face-to-face meetings.

See the council's website at www.coaleypc.org.uk for meeting agendas and minutes and to sign up for email updates from the council for news that can't wait for the next newsletter.

Please let us have your contributions for the next issue by
Wednesday 16th January 2022.

email: newsletter@coaleypc.org.uk

web: www.coaleypc.org.uk

facebook: [coaleypc](https://www.facebook.com/coaleypc)

This issue edited by Stephen Cook.

Cover picture: *Bea Smith, Sarah Randle and Mia Coggins in the panto.*

VILLAGE NEWS

HUMPTY DUMPTY AND THE MAGIC WALL

Welcome back to the Coaley Pantomime! Last year's enforced break certainly didn't appear to have affected the cast's confidence and sense of fun. Everyone on stage, in this colourful and joke-laden show, was obviously having a great time and clearly relishing being able to perform Coaley's unique brand of pantomime humour in front of appreciative audiences, once again.

Coaley Art Group had put a great deal of work into creating the faraway kingdom of Eggstonia and the first sight to greet visitors was the extremely



colourful Nutcracker Soldiers adorning the proscenium arch around the stage. The "Magic Wall" in the title was home to a huge eggshell, which served as a prison for the rotten egg, Humpty Dumpty, (gamely portrayed by Simon Ellis in a bright and suitably egg-shaped costume). Powerful



enchancements had kept him trapped inside the eggshell since he and his boss, the evil witch Salmonella, (played by panto regular, but first-time “baddy”, Gemma Sirett) had failed to overthrow the King. The nursery rhyme says that “Humpty Dumpty had a great fall” and it was Salmonella’s plan to return from exile and free her wicked accomplice, so they could once again try to steal the royal crown. With the help of an evil spell and the ingenious engineering of chief prop maker, Dave Prout, the egg did indeed fall from the wall and so the scene was set for the battle to save the crown. King Eggbert enlisted the help of his army to try to repair the eggshell so humpty could be transported back inside, thus restoring normality to his usually peaceful kingdom. Normality, however, is always non-existent in pantomime and a variety of eccentric and hilarious characters helped to

move the story along at a lively pace.

The talents within this group are EGGSemplary and the whole cast and crew worked EGGStremely well together to provide a polished performance. The show would not be a pantomime without a Dame and this year Keri James, as Minnie Meringue, joined forces with Paul Day, as Charlie Chuck, the royal chamberlain, to provide lots of quick-fire humour. Special mention should be given to the younger members of the cast for their confident performances; in particular, Emily Smith, who portrayed the hero, Prince Benedict, with panache and attitude. Mia Coggins, playing Queen Omelette, gave 100% effort to her characterisation and was obviously enjoying the show as much as the audiences were! The youngest members of the cast also got to shine,





with a remarkable degree of energy and confidence. A scene-stealing turn from Bella Bywater, as Flora the kitchen maid, had the whole hall in stitches, although most of her hilarious performance took place offstage! All too soon the finale arrived, seeing Humpty back inside his shell, with Salmonella for company, having been banished with a blood-curdling scream. Of course, a happy ending is obligatory and this lively show ended with Princess Shelley (a suitably regal Bea Smith) marrying her Prince.

The songs, as always, were toe-tapping and delivered with enthusiasm and fun. Many congratulations to everyone concerned with this year's production. EGGceptional stuff!!

Long may it continue.

CHRISTMAS TREE

Join us for the light up of the Coaley Village Christmas tree on Wednesday 1st Dec at 6pm, the launch of Christmas 2021. The event will be held with carols, lanterns and with mulled wine available to purchase. Don't forget your torch!

The Produce Show Committee would like to say a big thank you to our local plumber, Pete Holder, for sponsoring the Christmas tree. The beautiful tree has been provided with discount and delivery from our local tree supplier Upthorpe Trees at Upper Upthorpe Farm, GL11 5HR Cam.



THE NEW SHOP IS A SUCCESS!

Coaley Community Shop has had a new lease of life since the new shop opened in July. We have seen new people in the shop who have not visited before – and seeing what's on offer, they've returned! As a result takings are up significantly so the shop will have a sustainable future. This is what we were aiming for when we started planning the new shop and its good news for the community.

Positive feedback

We've had really good feedback from customers who have valued the longer opening hours, the new stock, especially the bread. Customers also



praise the layout of the shop, there is more space and the atmosphere is light and airy. The café area has been a success and we plan to make more use of it in the future, welcoming more vulnerable members of the community for informal social events and making more provision for walking groups.

There are more changes in the pipeline so watch this space! If you have any

ideas or comments please use the suggestion box that is now in the shop.



We need you!

Because we are busier in the shop, as ever, we really do need new volunteers. Serving behind the counter is a big part of it. If you are able to help you will get some informal training to learn the procedures and work alongside an experienced volunteer until you feel confident. If serving behind the counter isn't your thing you can help with ordering stock, going to buy stock, cleaning and delivering orders to vulnerable members of the community. If you are interested and would like a chat please contact Steve Wills, chair of the shop committee on 07867 672400.

Christmas goodies and orders

We will be stocking a range of Christmas goodies to help celebrate the festive season including Christmas puddings and mince pies. We hope that Lillie will be baking some Christmas specials which are sure to be a treat.

If you want to plan in advance you can

Christmas Opening hours:

Christmas Eve	Open as normal until 5.00 p.m.
Christmas Day	Closed. Our volunteers need a break!
Boxing Day	10.00 – 12.00
Bank holiday Monday	10.00 – 12.00
Bank holiday Tuesday	10.00 – 12.00
New Year's Day	10.00 – 12.00
Sunday, 2nd January	9.00 – 12.00
Bank holiday Monday	10.00 – 12.00

get your orders in for Christmas meat and bread. We will have order forms from Cam Family Butchers and Hobbs House Bakery

We already have a wide range of Christmas cards in stock so that you can keep in touch with loved ones and friends when an email just won't do. We also have Christmas stamps. And if you are giving presents we will have

Christmas wrapping paper.

Please do let us know if there is anything else you think we might be able to stock for the Christmas festivities.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our customers a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Carol Singing

Coaley Church Choir will be singing carols in
Betworthy, The Close & Fox Meadow
on Thursday 23rd December from 7pm.
Do come out and listen or join in celebrating the
Christmas Season.



CALENDAR PHOTOS

This year's calendar (see below) should be now available, showcasing photographs taken by our neighbours in the surrounds of Coaley. Copies are available in the shop, £6 for one or 2 for £10.

Don't forget to take photographs each month ready for next year's calendar. They need to be in landscape format and clear enough to be able to be enlarged and printed.

We have had a fabulous Autumn term at Coaley Primary Academy with so many amazing things happening, despite having to be a bit more COVID careful.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

In line with advice from the Deanery and our need to keep everyone safe in a small space, Coaley Church will not be holding Messy Christmas or Crib Service this year. We are looking forward to welcoming you to the Carol Service on 19th December at 4pm and at our Christmas services.

Wishing you a Peaceful and Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

POPPIES

Thank you to everyone who made poppies to enable displays to be made in the centre of the village. Special thanks to June Dunlop, Sue Childs and Pat Grimwood for their help in positioning them.



JANUARY



FEBRUARY



MARCH



APRIL



MAY



JUNE



JULY



AUGUST



SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER



NOVEMBER



DECEMBER

**P
E
A
C
E**



NOEL

St Bartholomew's Church, Coaley
invites you to join them at Christmas

**Sunday December 19th
Carol Service 4pm**

**Christmas Eve
Christmas Communion
9.30pm**

**Christmas Day
Christmas service with carols
9.30am**

The PCC & the churchwardens
wish you a happy & peaceful Christmas

Christmas

**J
O
Y**

WI

At our last meeting we were delighted to welcome Jo Attwooll to deliver a craft session where we learnt how to weave willow. The project was a willow star and there was a huge variety of materials to choose from both for the framework and for the weaving. Jane and Avril were on hand to assist Jo and guided us along and we had some great results. The stars can be used as decorations, table mats or many other decorative uses. I wonder if we will see any decorating doors at Christmas.

As I write, members are busy baking for the tea room we will be running in the village hall alongside the Repair cafe. This is the second repair cafe with a good selection of workshops and we have booked the in on our calendar next year to tell us about the work and to show us how to make beeswax wraps.

We've recently updated an information sheet for new members to help them settle in to the WI and we have also updated our Welcome to Coaley booklet which will be included with the Parish magazine. The Welcome booklet was previously given to new residents as a useful guide but we thought it would be a good idea to hand it out to all residents as a lot of the information has changed over time.

Our November meeting is at the later date of 24th. This is our AGM and annual reports have been sent out to members prior to the meeting to enable

everyone to consider any questions they may have and we will also be voting in our committee. On conclusion of this, we are running some craft tables to make pine cone elves or Christmas trees and baubles decorated with ribbon and all things glittery.

Why not come along and join us. Our programme for next year is in your welcome booklet and you can come along without obligation to see what it's like. Visitors pay £3.50 for the evening and you will be welcomed with a glass of wine or juice, listen to a speaker or take part in an activity and have a chat over tea and biscuits at half time.

You can follow us on Facebook or get in touch via email on coaleywi@hotmail.com



St Bartholomew's Church, Coaley

**Words and Music
for a Winter Afternoon**

**A light hearted entertainment
with seasonal readings and music
followed by mulled wine, mince pies
(tea & coffee available)
and a chance to chat.**

Sunday 12th December

3pm

Admission free

COME AND JOIN THE DURSLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR

Choral singing is good for your health. If you've been to see Dursley Male Voice Choir in recent years you might have noted how regular singing in a choir can see you through to a ripe old age! Indeed, it has been scientifically proven that choral singing is good for both your physical and mental health.

Dursley Male Voice Choir was founded by a group of enthusiastic local singers in 1978 and has since grown to be one of the principal male voice choirs of the region with singers drawn from communities around Dursley and the wider Stroud district.

The Choir performs around 12 concerts each year, the majority of them for charity. As well as local concerts the choir performs at many venues around

the UK and internationally. Memorable concerts include those whilst on tour in south-west Ireland, at St George's Hall in Bristol in aid of Southmead Hospital, as well as concerts in the Pittville Pump Rooms, Colston Hall, Gloucester Cathedral, Bath Abbey and Cheltenham Town Hall. The choir toured Yorkshire in September 2017 singing at Harrogate and in Ripon Cathedral. Then again in 2019 singing near Sheffield and in Wakefield Cathedral. Over the years the choir has been successful in many competitions and have toured extensively including Canada, Austria, Ireland as well as many UK locations.

The choir has recently resumed performances following 18 months of COVID enforced absence. This period has also seen a number of our older members decide that the time has come for them to retire from the choir. They will be missed, but this has also



galvanised a recruitment campaign to bring the choir up to its former strength.

So, to the gentlemen among you, or ladies who think their men would benefit from a bit of choral singing, we would like to welcome you into the Dursley Male Voice Choir. Yes, you do need to be able to hold a tune, but we're not looking for a Pavarotti or the next Bryn Terfel. You don't need to be able to read music; in fact, we provide practice tracks and videos to help you learn pieces at home. We are also making special efforts to help support new members. So, as well as ensuring you have a 'buddy' in your early weeks we will also offer 'New Members' practices to help you come up to speed with pieces the choir already knows well. We practice on a Wednesday from 7.30 to 9.30pm at the Chantry Centre in Dursley.

You can find out more about the choir online at dursleymalechoir.org.uk or on Facebook @DursleyMaleVoiceChoir. You can also watch some Lockdown recordings we made on YouTube; just search Dursley Male Voice Choir. But please feel free to get more information and help by ringing Laurence Bryant on 01453 890195.



Hedgerow Wildlife Decline

The hedgerow network is our largest nature reserve. 130 species of our living wildlife are associated with hedgerows including Hedgehog, Hazel Dormouse, Brown Hairstreak Butterfly and many bird species. Planting more hedgerows will help the climate too, as a significant amount of carbon sequestration is attributable to hedgerows according to the ORE (Organic Research Centre). This is the time of year to bulk up your existing hedges and plant new ones. If you've put up a fence recently, plant a suitable hedge alongside it with suitable species to help garden birds, and bats too.

Where have all the birds gone?

Currently there appears to be a crash in some populations of our iconic birds, e.g. Blackbirds and robins are not singing to guard their territories as they normally do in autumn. Why? Probably because there aren't sufficient birds for territories, so they don't have to - due to lack of competition. Should others have alternative explanations, please let us know through the village magazine etc.

Look out now for wintering migrants, such as Redwings (right) and Fieldfares from Scandinavia. Leave windfall apples on the ground for them and even put out ageing fruit from your fruit bowl.

Otis Tarda

SCHOOL REPORT

The Coaley Fireworks was a roaring success and we had so many compliments and comments from parents and families from school and outside of the Coaley school family. The fireworks were amazing and there were lots of 'Oooos' and 'Ahhhs' from the appreciative crowd. The MegaBites burger van did a brisk trade, keeping all our visitors well-fed and happy. I want to thank the Friends of Coaley School (FOCS) for putting on such a brilliant event, as well as Stephen Cook and Bruce Caldwell for dancing between the fireworks with their torches, safely setting off the incredible display.



Above: Terry Chivers presents a cheque for over £2600 to upgrade the school library.

As we hurtle towards, Christmas, we have had to reintroduce some COVID restrictions, to continue to keep us all safe. This has meant a slight return to some but not all preventative measures of wearing facemasks and using lots of hand sanitiser. However, this has not stopped us getting outside, using the field whenever we can with the children wearing their wellies.



We have also had a special visitor from the School House Trust. Terry Chivers came into school recently to present a cheque for over £2600 for new books for our upgraded library. As you can see, the children love our new library as it promotes one of the greatest gift we can give our children: the opportunity to get lost in a good book! The children said thank you to Terry and the School House Trust and we look forward to their continued support for the children at Coaley in the future.

This time of year is particularly important if you are choosing which school to send your under-5 child to for September 2022. We have been having a lot of interest this year and I have already shown lots of parent around school. However, it's not too late to book a slot as we'd love to show you around Coaley School and share all the amazing things we get up to every day!

Christmas

At the Old Fox

Music Nights

4th Dec - Steve Ferbrache

18th Dec - Laura Davis

24 DEC - CHRISTMAS EVE -12pm - Close,

food served 12pm - 6pm

25 DEC - CHRISTMAS DAY : Festive Drinks 11-2pm

26 DEC - BOXING DAY 12pm - Close.

Big Boxing Day Quiz 5pm. BYO nibbles

27 DEC 12pm - close. Food served 12pm - 9pm

28, 29th,30th DEC -Normal Opening

31 DEC - NEW YEARS EVE - Food served 12pm- 4pm,

NYE Party -from 6pm- Music and Canapés

01 JAN - NEW YEARS DAY - normal opening hours



TWELVE IDEAS FOR A MORE SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS

1. Xmas card list trimming! Verbally greeting the people you see with the spirit of the season instead of a card can reduce your list. For those you do send, charity cards and FSC or PEFC certified cards are a positive move. Another option is to send an e-card.

2. 'Brown paper packages tied up with string' ... can be just as exciting, especially when given the personally decorated touch, perhaps with natural materials for example pine cones or seed heads. Recycled wrapping paper is a good choice too, avoiding glitter and other additions made of plastic which are non-recyclable. Try paper tape instead of plastic sellotape or cleverly fold paper and tie with string or raffia (not ribbon which is usually plastic). Imaginative wrapping using left over fabric can be eye catching, and kept for future use.

3. Christmas cards from previous years can be made into gift tags and decorate presents too.

4. Shopping locally to support local businesses, and avoiding multi-national companies and imported products with high carbon footprints are thoughtful moves.

5. Supporting the circular economy by buying secondhand gifts is not only kind to the planet but usually the pocket too! Toys, books and clothes for example can be found in charity shops

or online sites such as 'World of Books', 'Vinted', 'Preloved' and of course eBay.

6. Giving consumable gifts is very often appreciated as many of us have too many 'things'. Have fun choosing treats such as cheeses, specialty foods, a Xmas cake, nuts, preserves or soaps, Homemade treats have a special value.

7. Maybe think of the gift of time together – a shared lunch, visit or an experience. This can be a great alternative to toys for children.

8. Considering a charity donation for 'the person who has everything' can be win – win!

9. Choosing a Christmas tree grown in Britain lessens 'tree miles' and discourages imported pests and diseases; recycling for shredding afterwards is eco-friendly. The local charity Longfield (01453 886868) collects trees for shredding for a donation, so is well worth supporting.

10. Careful planning can help to avoid over buying food for the festive season but if you have excess, the Olio app connects neighbours with each other, and local businesses, for sharing of food, and other items, to prevent waste.

11. Christmas dinner is feast time! Local, ethically reared, organic or free range meat is a conscientious choice. For a plant based option there are some tasty recipes that live up to the

St Bartholomew's Church, Coaley

Christmas Bazaar

Sunday 5th December

2-4.30pm

Coaley Village Hall

Christmas Shopping Opportunity!

Lots of Stalls! Tombola & Raffle!

Cream Teas & Festive Treats!



Admission free

special occasion.

12. Eco – friendly crackers are a snappy idea! Good examples have plastic free gifts, and packaging in recycled paper from a sustainable source, for example those from the RSPB. Homemade crackers are fun to make and fill and a great activity with children. Use old wrapping paper and cardboard rolls, devise jokes and make tiny gifts (eg homemade tree decorations, or home cooked treats).

Kathy Williams, Coaley and Uley CAN



SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

We can accept text content for the newsletter in a wide variety of formats - even handwritten.

On the other hand, photographs are a difficult area and the newsletter printing process has some technical requirements. We have a page on the council website with more detail. https://www.coaleypc.org.uk/newsletter_guidelines.

PLAYGROUP

It's been an action-packed term at Coaley Village Playgroup this Autumn. The children have been having loads of fun in their expanded and improved outdoor area thanks to the hard work of our brilliant community volunteers over the summer. It's been an absolute delight to see the children enjoying the space and having even more opportunities to explore and play outside regardless of the weather.

We had a wonderful night quizzing at the Fox and raised a whopping £448.80 for the playgroup, thanks to all the quizzers (who knew a lot more than we did!) and thanks also to the generously donated raffle prizes and everyone who bought tickets.

The Trick or Treat Trail at Halloween was also a massive success raising £183 and we were really impressed by all the scary house displays and some even scarier costumes we saw along the trail. Neither the quiz or the Trick or Treat Trail would have been possible without the inspired ideas and hard work of Suzi Williams and her team at The Old Fox as well as the volunteers from the School and the Playgroup who gave up their time to plan and run the event. We're so lucky to be based in such a supportive and enthusiastic community as Coaley and we're very grateful to all of you who came along to the quiz, or to the trail. Every penny that we raise funds new experiences, activities and resources for the children so thank you to all of you on their behalf.

Dursley Round Table have let us know that according to their sources at the North Pole, we here in Coaley have been very good boys and girls this year and so can expect a visit from Father Christmas and his tractor drawn sleigh on the 16th December. Volunteers from the playgroup will be helping Santa's elves collect charity donations and proceeds are generously being donated to the playgroup and other local charities. We'll update our Facebook page with further information nearer the time so look out for that and of course listen out for the jingling of those bells on the 16th of December!

We have become very busy meaning we are operating a waiting list for new children. Please get in touch if you would like to add your child's name to the list. Please email coaleyplaygroup@gmail.com for more information about availability.

Our Toddler group is on a Thursday morning, You are welcome to come along with your children aged 0-4 from 9:00-10:45 but please book in advance by emailing coaleytoddlers@gmail.com. It's a great way to see the setting and meet other

local mums.

Getting in touch

If you would like to keep in touch or ask any questions, you can always contact us.

Please take a look at our website <http://www.coaleyplaygroup.org/>

Gmail: coaleyplaygroup@gmail.com

Telephone: 07434364850

September 2021 Session Times

	Morning session	Full session
Monday to Wednesday and Friday	8:50am – 12:50pm	8:50am – 2:50pm
Thursday	Coaley Toddlers 9.00-10.45	

USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish Councillors	Stephen Cook	860504
	Martin Percy	890818
	Ben Bywater	07909 545303
	Caroline Eardley	890139
	John Hobson	07715 558110
	Penny Wait	860191
Parish Clerk	Lynn Thornton clerk@coaleypc.org.uk	545880
Stroud District Councillor	Martin Percy cllr.martin.pearcy@stroud.gov.uk	890818
GCC Councillor	Wendy Thomas wendy.thomas@gloucestershire.gov.uk	
Vicar	position vacant	
Village Hall	Lesley Chalmers	890788
Need a lift to Coaley Church?		
Co-ordinator	Isobel Farmer	890556
Tree Warden	Stephen Cook	860504
Snow Warden	Jonathan Leigh coaleysnowwarden@gmail.com	860665 07767 660206
Neighbourhood Watch	Ken Wibberley	890449
Community Shop		899000
Coaley WI	June Dunlop	890302
ST Emergency Water & Sewage Centre (24 hr)		0800 7834444
Gas Emergency Leaks etc (24 hr)		0800 111999
Electricity Loss of Supply (24 hr)		0800 6783 105 or 105
Street Lights		08000 514514
Community Wellbeing Service (was Village Agent)	communitywellbeing.stroud@nhs.net	0345 8638323