

# Coaley Parish NEWSLETTER

Issue no 122  
February / March 2022



**Gigaclear restart  
Recreation ground consultation**

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
13th Feb	Valentine Tea and Cake	2.30pm	Hall	
14th Feb	Whist	2pm	Hall	890679
20th Feb	Music and Cake	3pm	Church	
5th Mar	Repair Cafe	2-4 pm	Hall	See p7
21st Mar	Panto meeting	7.30 pm	Jubilee Room	890104
15th April	Famine Lunch			
1st -2nd May	Plant Swap	All day	Throughout village	
26th Jun	Garden Challenge Cup			

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](http://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 March 2022.

email: [newsletter@coaleypc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@coaleypc.org.uk)

web: [www.coaleypc.org.uk](http://www.coaleypc.org.uk)

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

This issue edited by Stephen Cook.

Cover picture: *Playground leaders course at Coaley School*

# VILLAGE NEWS

## GIGACLEAR WORKS

Everyone in the village will be aware that Gigaclear have appointed a new contractor Avonline Networks and restarted the installation of their fibre network. This came as a surprise to everyone, including the Parish Council. We have made Gigaclear aware that this is not acceptable and we need much more notice, particularly if the road is going to be closed and a long diversion put in place. We have asked that they use traffic lights so that traffic can continue to get from one end of the village to the other but this will not always be possible. They have explained that when they are laying the cable in the footpath and there isn't a footpath on the other side of the road, there is not enough room in the road for their equipment, a lane for traffic and a segregated path for pedestrians. In this situation they must close the road completely.

Gloucestershire County Council Highways department tell us the reinstatement work is guaranteed for two years and if any problems have to be fixed the two years start again. Reports of reinstatement problems should be made on the highways section of the GCC website.

Despite Gigaclear failing to communicate effectively, the Avonline workers on site have been trying to keep us informed via the Coaley

community facebook group. Please don't complain to them about the disruption. They are just doing their job.

## 80 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG

Her Majesty is not the only one to celebrate a milestone anniversary this year, Coaley Produce Show has been staged for 80 green and glorious years. It started in 1942, as many village shows did, to encourage people to grow their own during the tough war years. Since then, it has extended to include vegetables, specimen and arranged flowers, childrens classes and Arts and Crafts. Anyone living in the village or belonging to a club or association within the village is encouraged to enter.

The 2022 schedule can now be found on the website [www.coaleyproduceshow.org.uk](http://www.coaleyproduceshow.org.uk).

This gives you plenty of time for garden planning or trying your hand with a new skill. I am always amazed with what my neighbours can grow or make. It was so good to see the 2021 Show happen after COVID prevented the previous year's Show. Let's make the 2022 Show one to remember!

## COALEY CHURCH CHOIR

Do you like to sing? If so, could we persuade you to join Coaley church choir?

Perhaps you are new to the area and didn't know about us. We are small in number and would love to have some new members. We enjoy singing, helping the congregation with hymns on a Sunday morning and singing an anthem during the service. Nothing too ambitious and something that is enjoyable to sing. Why not come along and listen to us practice on a Thursday evening in the church, 7.00 – 8.00 p.m. Or perhaps you would like to come to a church service, 9.30 a.m. every Sunday. We are very welcoming and friendly and there is coffee and biscuits after the service with a chance to chat.

The photo below shows us carol singing. A motley crew, although we do wear choir robes on a Sunday! Why not take a chance and come and see what

we are all about? You would be very welcome

The Choir raised £90 for the Gloucester City Mission carol singing in Betworthy, The Close and Fox Meadow and by donating what they would have spent on Christmas cards to each other. Many residents came out to join in singing the well-loved carols. Thanks to Sue and her brother who provided the brass accompaniment and to all who donated to this excellent charity. A splendid effort and jolly good fun with the singers enjoying Maggie's mulled wine and buffet supper afterwards.

Gloucester City Mission wrote in a longer letter, "Thank you so much for your donation towards helping the homeless. We are really thankful to supporters like you who give so generously to this necessary ministry." The letter is at the back of church if you would like to read it.



# COALEY PANTOMIME 2022

Firstly, a very big “Thank You” to everybody who supported the highly successful production of Humpty Dumpty and the Magic Wall last November. It is now time to start thinking about this year’s offering. Although it seems rather early to be planning an event which will take place in November (dates below), it is necessary to have an informal meeting soon, so that the director will have an idea of how many people wish to be involved. A script cannot be chosen until after this meeting, as some scripts have only a handful of roles, while others cater for dozens! Therefore, if you wish to be involved in any way, (even if you are a regular member of the team) it is important to let the director know, at this meeting, to enable a script to be chosen to meet the size of the cast and also to confirm that there will be enough helpers behind the scenes. This also gives plenty of time for all the other tasks which need to be done before a script can be circulated and for the painting of the scenery to begin. The meeting will be held at 7.30p.m. on Monday 21st March in the Jubilee Room at the back of the village hall and everybody is welcome to attend. A short AGM will start proceedings and if you are thinking of becoming involved for the first time, this is an ideal opportunity to come along and learn a little more about what happens in the run up to these hugely popular events.

For those who are new to the village,

the Coaley Amateur Dramatic Society (a rather grand name for a group with the sole purpose of staging our village pantomime) has been in existence, in its present form, since 1999. Many years before, a drama group had existed, but sadly disbanded. To celebrate the new millennium, it was decided to resurrect the tradition and with the exception of 2020 (for obvious reasons) there has been a production in the village every year since then. The cast is mainly comprised of Coaley residents from all walks of life, with an age range between 7 and...sshh: there is no upper age limit. The rehearsals are very informal, fun and a great way to meet new people. Every year we welcome new members to the cast and crew. There are many ways to become involved, either on stage, with roles both large and small, or by offering to lend a hand behind the scenes. Whatever your input, there is always a collective feeling of achievement and the whole process is not only great fun, but also a very rewarding experience. Teamwork is at the heart of every rehearsal and performance and therefore it is important that you check your availability before offering to become involved. Details of rehearsals and performance dates are set out below and, of course, are dependent on any Covid restrictions in place at the time.

Very informal “casting sessions” are held early in June (dates to follow). Rehearsals start at the beginning of September and take place on Monday evenings (except Juniors), Friday evenings and Sunday mornings. The

production will be on Thursday 24th, Friday 25th and Saturday 26th November (matinee and evening on the 26th).

We look forward to welcoming you to the planning meeting in the Jubilee Room at 7.30p.m. on Monday 21st March.

For any further information, please contact the Chairman, Keri James on 01453 890104 or email at [keriatcoaley@btinternet.com](mailto:keriatcoaley@btinternet.com)

## CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

Coaley & Uley Climate Action Network held a Christmas-themed repair café in the village hall on 21st November, which was a great success and very well attended.



Coaley and Uley residents had free access to tool sharpening, textile repairs and bike repairs, in addition to workshops on how to make your own Christmas cake, Christmas wreath and Christmas decorations and an e-bike demonstration. We'd like to extend a

big thank you to Bob Hallam from Coaley village who was an incredibly popular tool sharpener, all the members of the WI, Fiona Porter from Cotswold Country Flowers, Katharina Child from Atelier and Alex Reeves from Charlotte's Tandems for donating their time and expertise for this event.

If you have any repairing or self-sufficiency skills that you'd like to share, or ideas about what you'd like to see at future events please email [coaleyuleycan@gmail.com](mailto:coaleyuleycan@gmail.com). Our next repair café will be on Saturday the 5th March 2022 at Coaley Village Hall and will be garden-themed. We will have tool sharpening and seed swapping in association with the Coaley Produce Show. More details will be shared on the Facebook Coaley & Uley community pages, and both village shops closer to the event time.

## Easy Eco Tips for 2022

Every newsletter we'll be including one simple thing to do to improve your carbon footprint. The change may seem tiny, but small changes made by lots of individuals can add up to a better future for us all.

Ethical banking has been said to be one of the most powerful contributions an individual can make towards a more sustainable world. Consider looking into and changing who is using your money! It can be an easy but valuable step. Some ethical banks you could take a look at are Triodos Bank, Starling or Monzo, all of which are protected by the FSCS.



Coaley & Uley **Climate Action Network (CUCAN)**  
AND the Coaley Produce Show present a

**GARDEN SPECIAL**

**REPAIR CAFE**



**& SEED SWAP**

**SATURDAY 5TH MARCH**

**2-4pm, COALEY VILLAGE HALL**

Bring and learn how to repair your broken things

**THIS TIME YOUR REPAIR  
CAFE WILL FOCUS ON:**



**BIKE  
REPAIR**



**TOOL REPAIR &  
SHARPENING**

For queries or to volunteer your skills to help others repair their things, contact us on: [coaleyuleycan@gmail.com](mailto:coaleyuleycan@gmail.com)

**Or just enjoy some WONDERFUL REFRESHMENTS provided  
by the W.I. along with FREE workshops and demos**

**Tea by the W.I.**

- Tea and Coffee
- Fabulous biscuits and cakes

**FREE workshops**

- Seed saving talk with Q&A
- Make your own eco pots
- Children's seed sowing

**... and much more!**

- Biochar demo
- Plastic pot recycling station

**Covid precautions** will be in place. Please DO NOT attend if you or a close contact are feeling unwell. Please contact Coaley and Uley Climate Action Network (CUCAN) on 07950 789995 or [coaleyuleycan@gmail.com](mailto:coaleyuleycan@gmail.com) if you present with symptoms within 48 hours of attending.

# PLAYGROUP

We have all settled back in and ready to start the new year after a restful Christmas break.

We have started the first couple of weeks with our focus book 'Supertato' which the children are really enjoying. We have a shop role play area where the children have loved acting out their shopping experiences. We had a walk to Coaley shop to buy some vegetables and look for the evil pea hiding in the freezer. We have also been exploring the ice that we have had over the last week. The children found lots of ice outside and we poured on some water to see what would happen to the ice. We then added some water and peas to a tray and left it overnight to see what happened.

Over the next few weeks we will be celebrating Chinese New Year and then we will be planning lots of exciting dinosaur activities.

We continue to be very busy meaning we are operating a waiting list for new children. We currently have no spaces available until September 2023 and then we have limited availability so



please get in touch as soon as possible if you would like to add your child's name to the list. Please email [coaleyplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:coaleyplaygroup@gmail.com) for more information about availability.

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/>

You can also follow us on Facebook or Instagram where we share lots of photos of our activities.

Email: [coaleyplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto: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	



## SCHOOL

I hope you have all had a restful Christmas holiday and a peaceful start to the new year.

At school, we have certainly hit the ground running with lots of exciting things planned for the term ahead. The Owls Class (Year 5 and 6 children) have tasted success this term already as they have started their course on becoming a Playground Leader. Playtime Leaders organise and lead playtime games for other children to join in with. This is being led by Mrs Daniels, a teacher from St Matthew's Primary School in Stroud, who has led the Playground Leaders course many times before; we have been very lucky

to have her experience with us at Coaley. It's a chance for the Y5s and Y6s to learn about leadership, and how to work as a team, both of which are important skills in modern day life! I know they will all take their responsibilities very seriously and have a great time leading playtime activities with the younger children. They also get a whistle to blow a lot!

The younger children have been learning loads and having a great time too, playing outside and having fun. Forest Schools is a particularly popular weekly activity that all children get to do at Coaley however old they are. All children, from Reception to Year 6, get to do Forest Schools every week and I know it's a highlight of many of our



children's week. Despite the cold and frosty afternoons, the children continue to have fun making things from nature, building stuff and engaging and learning about our fragile planet and how we need to look after it. They do art projects and use saws and drills to cut, bend and put things together. It really is a special place to go and hear the sounds of children laughing and learning.

It's been wonderful to see so many new families in school last term when making their choices of primary school for September 2022. Many of you are now putting Coaley Primary as your first choice of school for your child and we are so pleased that you are placing your trust in us to educate your child as they move through their years of primary education. Please do not hesitate to get in touch and come around and see us, and see all the amazing things that make us proud to be a part of the Coaley family.

XXXXX STOP PRESS XXXXX

We are holding an Enterprise week at the end of this term, in week commencing 14th February, where the children will be looking at careers, the world of work and how to set up a business and make a profit. Keep a look out for lots of goodies to buy from Coaley Academy businesses on Friday 18th in and around Coaley Village. More news will follow so keep an eye out for further details the school's newsletter, posters around the village and the school's website!

## RECREATION GROUND

The Recreation Ground Sub Committee has published an online version of the community consultation event held in village hall in the summer. Villagers who did not get a chance to 'dot vote' their favourite ideas then are asked to follow this link and do it now >> <https://forms.gle/tdq4ftTjy1qpRFua8>

The village Facebook page has also been updated with a similar notice to ensure we get as many and as good a spread of villagers as possible.

The next step will be to develop a plan that includes the most popular ideas and get further feedback. We will then start applying for the necessary funding.

## PLANT SWAP 2022

The date for this year's plant swap organised by the Produce Show is the 1st and 2nd of May. Don't forget to save any spare seedlings or plants you divide to bring along. There will be tasty refreshments provided by the WI.

To help you plan your garden, there are some Sutton Seeds catalogues in the Village Shop. Suttons will give villagers a 30% discount on seeds and 10% on other items using the code provided by them for Coaley. If the catalogues run out you can still take advantage of the discount with an on-line order. Please ask a member of the produce show committee for the discount code.

# COALEY RECREATION GROUND

## EARLY IDEAS

## Revitalisation



Picnic areas in the shade and/or areas to BBQ



Update the facilities for younger children



Update the tennis courts - perhaps to include other sports



Some beautifully planted, wildlife-friendly borders



Plenty of open space for free play



Areas for gentler games such as chess or Pétanque



More trees and areas of wildflower meadow



New seating areas for individuals and small groups



All-weather track around the perimeter

Smaller or 5 a-side football pitch



Updated play area for older children



Exercise equipment



## What do YOU think?

Add any more ideas using a post-it note and 'dot vote' your favourite three ideas overall



Our AGM at the end of 2021 began with committee reports reflecting on what we had achieved in another changing and unpredictable year and a look to what we had planned for 2022. It has been very exciting for us to see so many new members join us and we welcome you to our friendly group.

The evening continued with some craft activities where members were able to make decorations such as pine cone elves and felt hearts and stars. There was a lovely variety of items completed which no doubt went on to adorn homes and Christmas trees.

Members were shown the newly printed Welcome to Coaley leaflets which have since been distributed to all households in the village. If you know of any new residents to Coaley, please email [Coaleywi@hotmail.com](mailto:Coaleywi@hotmail.com) and let us know so that we can provide them with this useful booklet.

We are delighted to have forged a new relationship with the Coaley and Uley climate action group and joined them at the last Repair café where we provided drinks and cake as well as a demonstration of how to make a Christmas cake on Stir up Sunday. We also held a raffle for the finished cake which Pat G won- well done.

The second cake was decorated for our Christmas party held in the village hall with friends, family and partners joining us for the evening. We had a fabulous bring and share buffet, drinks and Secret Santa gifts followed by a quiz with prizes for the winning team.

Our President Suzie surprised the committee when she handed them each a gift and she gave additional gifts to Pat Bozworth (*pictured right*) as a thank you for her long service to Coaley WI and her work on the committee including the role of Secretary. Pat can't remember how long she has been a member of Coaley WI but she does remember joining the

## **February 16th**

## **Climate Action Network**

Hear about the work of the group and learn how to make a beeswax wrap.

## **March 16th**

## **Lizzie Lindsell**

## **Crossword puzzles**

Lizzie shows us how she compiles crosswords and explains the conundrum that is the Cryptic crossword.

## **April 20th**

## **Birthday month**

Baroness Dawn Primarolo talks about women in parliament/government based on her experience in both House of Commons and House of Lords, followed by questions.



committee when she was pregnant with her daughter who is now in her 60's! Dedication indeed.

The New Year started with an auction evening where excess / regifted Christmas gifts were auctioned off to the highest bidder. We had many lovely donations – thank you. Our next 3 months talks are listed in the panel (*left*) and the full programme can be found in the centre pages of your Welcome to Coaley leaflet.

I have spoken to a number of women in the village who say they have heard good things about the Coaley WI meetings, why not come along and see for yourself, we'd love to meet you.

coaleywi@hotmail.com  
Facebook CoaleyWI

St Bartholomew's Church, Coaley  
invites you to  
join them for  
**Valentine  
Tea and Cake**  
Sunday 13th February  
2.30-5pm  
Tombola  
Book and Plant Sales  
Coaley Village Hall

St Bartholomew's Church, Coaley  
invites you to join them for  
**Music & Cake**  
Sunday 20th February  
Thornbury Community Choir  
Sunday 20th March  
Thornbury Ukuleles  
3pm  
Short informal & free concerts in church  
followed by tea, cake & a chance to chat.  
All Welcome

## PRODUCE SHOW COMMITTEE

As all in the village know, the Produce Show committee work hard to arrange the Show and other events during the year. We are always open to new suggestions and the Committee would welcome new members, only two meetings per year (with a few online chats) to attend plus Show day. We are proud to have kept the Village tradition going for so long and would welcome more help. It was lovely on Show Day last September to have so much help on the day, thank you to all who so kindly gave their time.

## GARDEN CHALLENGE CUP JUNE 26TH

As well as the main Produce Show in September organised by the Produce Show Committee, there is also the Garden Challenge Cup that runs earlier in the year. Features are changed each year and have included hanging baskets, tubs and troughs and whole gardens. Coaley is blessed with many beautiful gardens and we would encourage you to enter as gardeners value the informal chats and hints and tips received from the judges.

Last year the category was Spring Bulbs and there were pots, gardens and grass banks entered. This year the class is 'Your Herb Garden' and again this could be pots, window sill hangers or full herb gardens. Enjoy entering and getting tips on your garden.

The Garden Challenge Cup is due to

be held on June 26th and we would love to admire your herbs.

## COALEY CALENDARS

What a chilly start to 2022 which made the Coaley Calendar photo for January perfect. I'm sure you will all agree that the photographers in the village have captured some excellent shots for this year's calendar. The Produce Show committee found it very difficult to choose the final 13 shots, there were other stunning photographs but either they were portrait and not landscape or they became too pixelated when enlarged to create a printed picture. Thank you to all who purchased calendars, profits will be used for village items such as the village Christmas tree.

There is now a page on the Produce Show website that can accept photographs all year round. So, if you are like me, you don't need to look for your photos in September but can enter one whenever you know that you have taken a stunner on your daily walk.

As a reminder they need to be landscape and high resolution. When you send them and you are asked small, medium, large or full size you need to pick full size. This may mean you can only send a few at a time.

[www.coaleyproduceshow.org.uk](http://www.coaleyproduceshow.org.uk)

## QUEEN'S JUBILEE

The Village Hall Committee is considering events to be held on the first weekend in June. This includes having a bar in the Hall, a Hog Roast, Separate Children's and Teenager's Discos and a funfair on the field. More details later.

If any other groups in the village are thinking about holding an event to celebrate the jubilee, support may be available from the Parish Council. Please contact the clerk to discuss.

## WHIST

Sadly due to Covid regulations the January session was cancelled. Sessions will resume on Monday 14th February at 2pm. - assuming the hall is accessible!! Everyone welcome Contact Barbara Davis 890679

## VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

The Village Hall is following the Government Covid regulations. After "Plan B" is lifted, the wearing of face coverings in the hall will no longer be mandatory.

The Finance Committee is currently investigating the improvement of the disabled toilet and the installation of solar panels.



St Bartholomew's Church, Coaley  
invites you to join them  
in the Village Hall for  
**Charity Soup Lunches**  
through Lent  
Wednesday  
9th, 16th, 23rd,  
& 30th March & 6th April  
Good Friday Famine Lunch  
15th April at 12noon  
Proceeds to Gloucester City Mission  
which provides help for homeless people in the area  
All Welcome



St Bartholomew's Church, Coaley  
invites you to join them for  
**Mothers Sunday**  
Sunday 27th March  
9.30am  
Posies & Refreshments

## USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish Councillors	Stephen Cook	860504
	Martin Percy	890818
	Ben Bywater	07909 545303
	Caroline Eardley	890139
	John Hobson	07715 558110
Parish Clerk	Penny Wait	860191
	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	860665
	coaleysnowwarden@gmail.com	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