

Coaley Parish NEWSLETTER



Issue no 120

October / November 2021

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
17th Oct	Schoolmaster Quiz		Old Fox	890905
17th Oct	Music and Cake	3.00 pm	Church	
24th Oct	Cream Teas	2.00 pm - 4.30 pm	Hall	
30th Oct & 31st Oct	Trick or Treat Trail	4.00 pm	Start at the Old Fox	
Nov 7th	Fireworks	5.30 pm	School	
Nov 9th	Produce Show AGM	7.30 pm	Jubilee Room	
Nov 18th - Nov 20th	Panto performances	7.30 pm 2.30pm Sat matinee	Hall	See article
Dec 12th	Words and Music for a Winter Afternoon	3.00 pm	Church	
Dec 19th	Carol Service	3.00 pm	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
Tuesday 16th November 2021.

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: School watersports trip to South Cerney.

VILLAGE NEWS

COALEY COMMUNITY SHOP

Firstly, we would just like to say a big thank you to everyone involved in making the launch of the new shop such a success, and to everyone for the great comments and feedback we have had. The new shop is already much busier than the old one and we know there is still much more we could offer. To this end, we would love to have two volunteers for the busy shifts, so that there is someone else to help the till operator with all the other activities. So if anyone would like to join the ranks of volunteers they would be very welcome. And it's enjoyable!

We now have Hobbs House bread delivered on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday so if there is anything specific you would like to have delivered just let us know and we can add it to the order. But please let us know what else you would like to see on sale in the shop and we will do our best to stock it. Either ask the person serving, or use the suggestion box in the seating area.

To keep in touch with what we are doing please visit our Facebook page, where we will post details of events and anything else new.

We are very pleased that the Slimbridge Scouts have agreed to take the old shop to be their new scout hut.

It is to be sited at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, who will also make use of it, for example to house school parties in bad weather. The move is supported by the Stroud planning department and it ticks all the boxes in terms of it being good for the community as well as being the right thing to do environmentally.

We had expected that the shop would be removed by the end of September, but unfortunately, because of various delays in their project related to the current building and transport problems, that date has slipped back. If they don't make it before 15 October, when the Bewick swans and other migratory birds start arriving, the WWT cannot allow the move, which involves the use of a crane and other heavy machinery, until the end of March next year! This has come as quite a shock. There are many issues to be resolved but we wanted everyone to be aware of the situation. We just hope that if the delay does happen, everyone will understand and bear with us. We will look at ways of tidying up the appearance of the old building, so if anyone has any suggestions, please let us know.

At our recent AGM Brenda Board retired from the committee after several years of hard work steering the new shop to completion. Many thanks to her for a fantastic achievement.

PRODUCE SHOW

The Coaley Produce show was held on Saturday 4th September. Obviously this year was different to any other, the show was cancelled last year because of the Covid pandemic and there were times this year when we wondered what would be possible this time.

Everyone agrees it was a very successful show. The hall looked spectacular with beautiful floral arrangements and flowers, fruit and vegetable entries on display.

We had 536 entries by 109 individuals which was fantastic. It was really nice to see old friends and also new entrants who we hope enjoyed it and will enter again next year.

The Produce Show committee adapted arrangements on the day with timed staging and a one way system indoors. The WI teas were moved outdoors which gave more room for them to serve their delicious cakes and teas and more room for the exhibits to be spread out in the hall.

We had kept the schedule the same as usual with a couple of pandemic twists – such as banana bread, sourdough loaves and rainbow pictures.

Very popular classes were handicrafts such as knitting and wood carving – possibly a reflection of long lockdown evenings. In the home economics section popular items from the past such as Pineapple upside-down cake were on display.

Our sunflower competition produced a giant 3.29m sunflower grown by Caroline Roper.

The Garden cup this year was “spring bulbs in pots and containers” won by Jean Bryant.

Stephen Cook was the first man ever in the 80 year history of the show to win the Domestic Cup for home economics.

The Childrens’ cups were won by Poppy Cook and Tess Gibbs, The Centaur Cups for Coaley School children were won by Bea Walker and lyla Telling.

I want to thank all our judges – familiar faces and new judges, the WI, and helpers who provided lunches, the shop for their involvement and volunteers who helped us set up and particularly all the committee for their help.

Coaley Produce Show 2022 will be our 80th anniversary so we want to put on an even better event next year – we are happy to have ideas and help to make next year’s show the best ever.

Our calendar has been a successful fundraiser for us and will be on sale again soon for 2022. You still have time to send us landscape shape digital photos to be included via the produce show website.

We have held two plant swaps before Covid and two since- the ones we have done as village trails have been even



*Above: A fine display.
Left: Paul Freeman proudly shows off his longest runner bean.*



more popular and successful than the first two.

Our AGM will be on 9th November at 7.30 pm in the Jubilee Room. We normally have a short meeting followed by a social with wine and cheese - please come along and join in.

FIBRE BROADBAND INSTALLATION

The parish council have been provided with the proposed timetable for the work to install fibre broadband in Coaley and surrounding areas and we've published it on the website at <https://www.coaleypc.org.uk/roadclosures>.

The timetable shows that work was due to start on 4th September, which clearly didn't happen, but as we go to press work has started in Elmcote Lane. We've asked Gigaclear to provide an update but as yet we've not had a response from them. We've left the timetable on the website because it does at least indicate the likely duration and the order in which the work will be done.

COALEY PANTOMIME 2021

Humpty Dumpty and the Magic Wall by
Limelight Scripts.

At the time of writing, things are looking far more optimistic for the staging of this year's production of the long-awaited Coaley Pantomime. It was reassuring to hear that so many of you really missed being able to enjoy our pre-Christmas village tradition last year. However, we are back and remain hopeful that we will be able to entertain the village in November. To this end, rehearsals are already under way and the cast and crew are enjoying getting stuck in with all the necessary preparations.

Tickets for this very popular event always sell out FAST, so early booking is advised. Details of how to obtain tickets are set out below.

We very much hope to see you in November.

Tickets will be available, (payment with order, please) from Monday 4th October, as follows:

By obtaining a booking slip from Coaley Community Shop. All details on how to book and pay for your tickets will be included on this slip.

By phoning the Box Office on 01453 860570. Details for paying either by cheque or bank transfer are available on this number.

Ticket Prices:

All aged 16 and under - £4.00

All aged 17 and over - £8.00

Performances will take place in the Village Hall on:

Thursday 18th November at 7.30 p.m.

Friday 19th November at 7.30 p.m.

Saturday 20th November at 2.30 p.m.

Saturday 20th November at 7.30 p.m.

These performances will, of course, be subject to any Covid restrictions or conditions at the time.

For any further information, other than booking tickets, please contact the Chairman, Keri James, on 01453 890104.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

The Macmillan coffee morning held in the Shop and organised by Helen Wilcox raised well over £500 to help people facing cancer. Thank you to everyone who came along or contributed cakes.



PLAYGROUP

It has been lovely to welcome the children back after the long summer break as well as lots of new faces. We have become very busy which has resulted in us expanding our team and welcoming some new staff members also.

With lots of new children joining our Coaley playgroup family we have now become 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 for more information about availability.

We have now opened our Toddler group on a Thursday morning which is also very popular and getting busier each week. 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. We are looking for a baby play mat for our toddler group if anyone has one to donate that would be great.

Our community

We would like to say a huge thank you to the volunteers that came in to help us with some jobs in the summer. We are so grateful for the help we received and the playgroup has been transformed both inside and out! The children are enjoying the new sand and water area outside which is now in a sheltered area.

We also want to say a huge thank you to The Old Fox Pub for the fundraising events they are organising for Coaley Playgroup and School. Please see below. We are very excited for the trick or treat trail!

Sunday 17th October - quiz at The Old Fox at Coaley

30th and 31st October - Trick or Treat Trail in Coaley. Please look out for details on The Old Fox Facebook page.

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

At Coaley Primary, we've had the best start to the school year! Not only has the sun been shining so we've been able to get outside, but what makes it so exciting is that all the children can now play together and be together inside and out, as we are no longer required to have bubbles. Coaley school is like a family and being together is in our DNA. It's been lovely to see the children playing together and having fun outside, mixing as they always did before. We still have to maintain strict hand cleaning arrangements, have good cleaning regimes and ensure that we have good ventilation in the school but we're very excited about having everyone back together again. This means that the older children can resume their duties as being Y6 buddies, where they look after the new Reception children at break and lunchtimes. The older children have loved playing circle games with the younger ones! We can also reintroduce the older Owls children as table leaders at lunchtime, helping the younger children have a calm and fun lunch, cutting up food and engaging them in chat. The children really take pride in living out the school's values of Humility, Compassion and Respect in their daily lives at school.

Earlier this term, the Year 6 children had a chance to visit South Cerney and took part in lots of water sporting activities with other local schools. They had a great time and it made to a very special start to the school year.

We are looking forward to the term ahead and doing some of the things we haven't been able to do over the past 18 months. We are hoping to start to use St Bartholomew's Church once again and begin our regular visits. We are hoping to hold our Christmas production in the church this year as well as have a Christmas disco in school. Some things have not been able to restart, such as our regular parental invite to our Friday celebration worship, but these will resume as soon as we are allowed, as it's a part of what makes Coaley so special.



We are having lots of prospective parents visiting school since we've come back as many are hearing about what we do and why Coaley is such a wonderful school to send your child to. Our wraparound care, from 8.00am to 5.30pm, makes Coaley very attractive to working parents and it's getting even more popular since our return. Also, some year groups are full but we still have places if anyone wants to come round and see how great the school is. We will be inviting prospective parents

of Reception children for 2022 to visit the school next term so look out for signs and leaflets around the village. In the meantime, if you want to come and have a look before then, then give us a ring on 01453 890358 and arrange a visit!



WI

Cotswold canal trust have previously visited and talked to Coaley WI about the work they are doing in our area so it was lovely when we were able to hop aboard a boat at Ebley mill and enjoy a leisurely two hour trip up the canal and see for ourselves just how much has been achieved. We had a lovely sunny day and two volunteers from the trust showed us how to work the locks and what has been achieved so far.

In September we were delighted to open up our tea room again as part of the Produce Show. We love this community event and we were lucky to have such good weather and the use of the fabulous new shop as our

base. The weather may have put us behind a few weeks with growing but that certainly didnt spoil the competition. Well done to everyone who was successful with their entries. Thank you to the shop for allowing us to use the new shop and kitchen to serve refreshments from and thanks to everyone who supported us. Money raised will be used to make donations to local facilities.

We are enjoying being back in the hall and enjoyed a talk from Owen Gower, General Manager of the Jenner Trust. He outlined the work of Dr.Edward Jenner who practised medicine in his home town of Berkeley in the 18th century, and where he established vaccination as a prevention against smallpox, a highly infectious disease which was often fatal. It was declared to have been eradicated in 1979 by the World Health Organisation. The Jenner Museum is housed in The Chantry in Berkeley, the house where he lived for many years.

Future meetings -

Oct 20th Christmas craft workshop
Members will enjoy a practical evening of crafts together,

Nov 17th AGM November is our AGM and we hear from the committee about our finances, our year, our future plans.

Dec 15th Christmas party Time to get together with partners and friends and enjoy a Christmas meal and an after dinner quiz.

What's on @ The Old Fox

Dead Dog Cider
playing here
Thursday 13th

Coming up .. Wine tasting & Christmas Menu will be available

1ST
OCT

Tommy Lewis live!

Get your dancing shoes on! Tommy's back to get us dancing! Tapas Specials & menu from 5:30, Music from 9pm!

4
OCT

Monday night Opening

We will be opening for bar service on Monday evenings, to celebrate were hosting a Village Curry competition! Bring in your signature curry and have it judged by your fellow villagers! Prize for the winner! Next up Darts competition Mon 18th

17
OCT

School Master Quiz!

Our next Quiz will be hosted by Tim Byford former Headmaster who will be bringing his red pen ready for marking! Proceeds to Coaley Village Playgroup £3 pp Cheeseboards available to pre order!

30TH
&
31ST
OCT

Halloween Party & Trick or treat Trail

Come and get spooked with our Halloween party night, themed retro vinyl on the record player, prizes for best fancy dress!

Sunday from 4pm the village Spooky Trick or Treat Trail will be kicking off from the Fox, Enter our carved pumpkin competition! Hot dogs and raffle.

GILL NORTON

November 24th was a typical grey cold November day, with practically the whole country living under the stringent rules of Covid 19 lockdown. We shivered outside Glos crematorium where we had just said a last goodbye to our much loved sister, Gill, who for the past 6 years had been so bravely fighting cancer, but had passed peacefully away 2 weeks earlier.

Only 15 mourners were allowed inside the crematorium, so three sisters, two brothers, daughter, Angela, son James and grandchildren Shane, Jack and Chloe, meant that no more were allowed inside. Her son James, a University Lecturer, now living in Nova Scotia had come home to help nurse Gill during the last weeks of her life, and stayed with the family until after the funeral.

Gill was very well known during her life spent mostly in Coaley. She was the fourth of seven children of Dennis and Ellen Griffin.

Ellen came to Coaley as a teacher at Coaley School, during the years of "Boss Carter" and Miss Taylor. Dennis, who had been born and spent an idyllic childhood in Coaley, had gone to London as a teenager on an apprenticeship with Marconi, which eventually led to him being coming a Chief Radio Engineer in the Merchant Navy. At 32 years of age he returned to Coaley, purchased the village Shop/ Post Office, and met and married mum. All the children had helped in the shop

as their turn came around, but Gill stayed, running it with Dad until after 40 years he sold it to Joyce Adcock.

As a teenager, and after, Gill spent most of her time helping Dad with the shop, and was therefore well known and very popular.

She had, as we all had, joined the Church Choir when very young, and Brownies, and later as a teenager became a bell ringer, joined Woodfield Operatic Society, and was a reluctant performer at Harvest Festival and W. I. Extravaganzas.

After the shop changed hands, Gill went to work for a while at Gloucester Telephone Exchange, then Glos. Timber Company, where she met her husband Tom.

After her marriage she dutifully became a service personnel's wife, but with Tom away from home for weeks on end, mainly in Germany or N. Ireland, when Tom had a plum posting to Bermuda for two years, of course Gill went with him, taking their two toddler children with them, and where she joined woodwork evening classes, winning "First Prize" and "Best in Show" at the Bermuda Agricultural Show, which resulted in her meeting and being congratulated by the Governor of Bermuda in person, and as Ken and I were there holidaying for three weeks with Gill and Tom, we were also introduced to him.

Soon after Gill returned to Coaley, the place she most wanted to be, and

where she now rests in peace with her beloved Tom.

Always loved and missed, and never forgotten. On Sunday August 29th, the family gathered together to remember Gill, at a BBQ at Robert's lovely garden. Weather was beautiful, food good, and everyone had brought something to Auction, with any profit going to Cancer Research UK. Gill would have loved it!

Donations included two Garden Chairs, High quality Nikon binoculars, and for two to share a meal with the donor at The Ivy Restaurant in Cheltenham.

CHURCH

With musical events taking place on Zoom through lockdowns it was good to have live events in Coaley Church again. Doozie (Susy Keating & Dave Lane) performed on September 19th for Music & Cake. It was their first gig in 18 months, so they were as pleased to perform as we were to listen to them. The audience were treated to a selection of popular numbers including Deep River Blues, My Baby Just Cares for Me, Take Another Piece of My Heart, Mr Rock & Roll and Johnny B Goode.

Thank you to Doozie and to Friends of Coaley Church who provided their delicious tea & cake after the concert.

Do join us for more Music & Cake events on October 17th & November 20th



SOME THOUGHTS ON ELECTRIC VEHICLES

To eV or not to eV

Since taking a plunge and swapping our perfectly good petrol-powered car for an electric one, I have learned much about the pros and cons of each. A year on I can list these, in the hope that it might be helpful to anyone contemplating something similar. I have found more positives than negatives. Inconveniences that I assumed would appear did not, and unexpected positives did.

The biggest problem is undoubtedly the cost, eVs at present are so expensive, even second-hand ones. Another is the need for off-road parking space. Recharging is easy if you can charge the battery overnight, which needs that facility. A 7KW charge-point on the wall is convenient but not essential, the car can be charged from a 3-pin plug, it just takes all night instead of half the night.

Hybrid Vehicle or Pure Electric? This is a key question. It depends on the distance to be driven each day, because if you can home charge a full recharge is possible every night. If driving is local most of the time, an electric range to cover this is ideal. Long journeys require either recharge(s) along the way, or use of a Hybrid petrol engine. In my car the small petrol engine cuts in when the battery gets low, and charges the battery for a further 60 miles. In over a year I have only needed this Range

Extender twice. With 120 miles electric range it has been almost a pure eV, but without 'Range Anxiety'. I have driven to both London and France, with no difficulty. An overnight stay with family or friends and recharge from their 3-pin socket assists an extended journey.

After 100 miles I want a break. At Motorway Electric Pumps about 50 miles can be added to the battery during a half-hour rest. The limited number of ePumps at present can be inconvenient, but this is improving rapidly. If I cruise at just 55mph (a relaxed mode and having planned a longer journey time) the battery range increases above the specified figure! The energy gauge on the dashboard shows little is being taken from the battery, the motor just nudging the vehicle along (unlike a petrol engine which has to maintain high revolutions).

It costs less to run an eV. 100 miles in our petrol car cost about £11 (50 mpg), in the eV about £4. EVs are currently exempt Road tax, and city Congestion Charges.

Electric vehicles have many fewer moving parts than ICE (Internal Combustion Engine) vehicles, so they last longer, and Servicing costs less. They have a lower manufacturing Carbon footprint, and cause less particulates pollution.

To my surprise an eV has tremendous power. It can accelerate alarmingly if I put my foot down. There is no gear

changing (just two pedals, accelerator and brake), it is quiet, and just 'glides' along, one of the most enjoyable cars I have driven.

On investigation I found it was easier to solve the cost problem than I expected. With a low and fixed interest rate, monthly repayments are more than covered by lower running costs, and with part-exchange for my petrol car I only had to spend a quarter of the total cost.

Of course the Planet only benefits if the electricity used to charge the battery has been generated from Renewable sources – so for this purpose it is necessary to get one's home electricity from a Renewable Energy tariff, slightly more expensive, and choose similarly at Motorway ePumps. Domestic solar panels enable greater savings.

Battery life. My battery came with 4 years left of an eight-year warranty. In 18 months I have found no reduction in its capacity or performance (contrary to some online reporting). I have no worries about the battery, I believe it will work well enough for at least ten years.

eVs do not easily accommodate roof racks or tow-bars – transporting bicycles or canoes is a challenge.

David Lungley
coaleyuleycan@gmail.com

REPAIR CAFE

Coaley & Uley Climate Action Network held its first repair café in the village hall on 28th August, which included textile and wooden toy repairs, a make your own beeswax wraps workshop and a personal carbon footprint calculator. We also received a few suggestions from residents about what they'd like to see at future events and we'll be trying to source experts for these through Transition Stroud.



NURTURE NATURE

The Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley, has recently said that we can do a lot as there are 30 million gardeners in the UK. We can reduce impervious places by returning unnecessary concrete spaces to grass, digging small ponds, collecting rain water in butts – all of these will make a difference. Water features will help frogs, newts and toads to breed. We can change our planting patterns, choosing more pollinators for bees, insects and birds. We can try to leave parts of our gardens, whatever size, as wild spaces. Plant and replenish hedges rather than replacing them with wooden close boarded fences. If you

have fences, for whatever reason, cut some 13cm x 13cm spaces at the bottom of them to allow hedgehogs to pass through. One could still plant hedges along fences and grow nature friendly climbers on them. Hedgehogs travel quite long distances at night. They are an asset to gardeners as their main diet is slugs and snails, so killer pesticides should be avoided. Place hedgehog boxes in the wild areas for them to over-winter and breed. Hedgehogs, once so common, are now an endangered species.

Autumn is a time, too, to clean and repair nest boxes but first check for late broods, which the recent fine weather might have encouraged. Trim ivy and creepers by all means, but they are both food plants and nest sites for the spring useful to wrens, robins, tit species, thrushes and hedge sparrows. Create small stony and rocky areas to encourage slow worms and beetles. Erect bee and bat boxes and remember, too, that there are hefty fines for disturbing or destroying bat habitats, (recently a development company was fined over £600k for destroying a bat site!) Try to replace trees felled. A lot of native ash which has had to be felled recently to try to stop the spread of the killer disease, ash die back. Other species of tree are in danger too. Maybe think about planting for posterity, an orchard, perhaps, trees that are wildlife friendly, e.g. an oak will harbour nearly four hundred different types of insect, a horse chestnut just four.

Lillian B's

Alma House,
The Street,
Coaley,
Glos
GL11 5EG

Telephone
07414653292

Large, small and medium Christmas cakes
are now available for order!

These Christmas cakes can be made with or without alcohol and can also vary in nuts or fruit etc to cater for allergies. Please give me a call or text to order.

I can also cater for all requests! Cakes can be either with or without Marzipan/icing and decoration can vary.

Currently 3 sizes available:

Small(6"cake)	£15
Medium (8"cake)	£25
Large (10"cake)	£40

Church Organist Wanted

Not necessarily a full-time organist, one or two Sundays per month may suffice, but the need is there. There is a salary involved also!

Please contact
Christopher Prout (899116) or
Ken Williams (842326)

USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish Councillors	Stephen Cook	860504
	Martin Percy	890818
	Ben Bywater	07909 545303
	Caroline Eardley	860139
	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