

Coaley Parish NEWSLETTER

Issue no 123

April / May 2022



Jubilee Events
Plant Trail and Swap

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
3rd April	Music and Cake	3pm	Church	
15th April	Famine Lunch			
18th April	Easter Egg Hunt	10.30am	Church	
27th April	Annual Parish Meeting	7.30 pm	Jubilee Room	
30th April	Coaley Rocks	7pm	Hall	
1st -2nd May	Plant Swap	All day	Throughout village	
4th -5th May	Village Hall car park closed			
2nd June	Jubilee events		See article p8-9	
5th June	Pet Show Jubilee events		See article p8-9	
25th June	Coaleyst	3-10pm	School field	
3rd July	Garden Challenge Cup	pm	Please note date change	

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 Monday 16th May 2022.

email: newsletter@coaleypc.org.uk

web: www.coaleypc.org.uk

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

This issue edited by Stephen Cook.

Cover picture: A new lamb at Field Farm

VILLAGE NEWS

COALEY PRODUCE SHOW - 80TH ANNIVERSARY

Plant Trail Swap & Sale 1 & 2 May

Bring your surplus plants to swap or money to buy!

The annual Coaley Plant Swap is being organised to help people improve their gardens. It is the perfect way to thin out some extra plants you have, while getting some new ones to enjoy at the same time.



All you have to do is bring your surplus plants along in individual containers with the name written on it in a marker pen. You can bring any variety of plants – fruit or vegetable, indoor or pond plant whatever. We have even had bamboo canes for runner beans too. If you don't have any plants to swap you can pay by cash or bank transfer which will raise much needed funds for local groups.

Plant stalls will be situated throughout

Coaley village at The Street, Hams Hill, Far Green, The Ham, Silver Street and Trenley Road. Maps will be provided. You can enjoy a walk around the village, meet new people and pick up some new plants.

You can take a break and enjoy the Coaley WI delicious tea and cakes at the village hall. Bring your own bags. There will be a plant crèche at the hall so there is no need to carry your plants around on your walk. Car parking is also available at the village hall.

If you want any more information about the Plant Swap or Coaley Produce Show go to www.coaleyproduce.org.uk

HGVS ON LANES

Following two incidents where large vehicles were stuck on the lane to Uley the parish council has been trying to get road signs put up to warn drivers that the road is unsuitable. The highways department at Gloucester County Council are reluctant to provide signs without evidence that there is a problem, but despite us providing photographs of both incidents above they still want more. If any parishioners come across an unsuitable vehicle using narrow lanes anywhere in the village please take photographs and send them to the parish council so we can add to the evidence already supplied.

RECREATION GROUND REVITALISATION UPDATE

The Recreation Ground Sub Committee met with a group of engaged villagers (who had self-organised via Facebook) in the Village Hall's Jubilee room on Wednesday 9th March. The group reviewed the progress to date and discussed the next steps for the revitalisation of the recreation ground. It was agreed the group would meet monthly and the sub-committee be renamed the 'Coaley Recreation Ground Action Group' to mark an almost trebling of members at the start of this next phase.

Much of the meeting was spent reviewing what around 100 villagers of all ages have expressed as their priorities in the consultation surveys held in the village hall on shop launch day and online via Facebook. The consistently expressed top priority across both consultations was 'something for the older children' and the sub committee were pleased to report that the Parish Council had agreed to an offer made by our very own Steve Birkbeck to build a pump track for bikes (and anything else with inflated tyres) in the corner of the recreation ground, around the basketball court. Steve hopes to commence work when things have dried a bit in the Spring and will do what he can to get villagers (especially the kids) involved and helping. Watch this space (and Facebook).

Other top priorities seen in the consultation were:

- more trees and areas of wildflower meadow
- an all weather track around perimeter
- updated facilities for younger children
- beautifully planted wildlife friendly borders
- exercise equipment
- plenty of open space for free play
- new seating areas for individual and small groups
- updated tennis courts, perhaps to include other sports

The next step was to engage the services of a specialist to think about how these elements might fit together and to create a design illustration which we can use to get further feedback from villagers, and inform redesign as necessary. A visualisation will also allow the group to start making the all important approaches for funding to bodies like the District and County councils, local businesses, the National Lottery, and Charitable Trusts. Happily, one of the group has contacts in the landscape and architecture world and hopes to identify a potential partner to help us move forward with this next phase.

If you are interested in joining the group or have anything you would like the group to consider please email wilkins.lucy@gmail.com (yes that's gmail not gmail!).

SHOP

Goodbye old shop – on with the new

The new shop opened last July but we've had to wait for the old one to be removed – primarily because of potential disruption to migrating swans at its new home in Slimbridge. We are now hoping to move the old shop on Thursday 5th May. For safety reasons part of the car park will be shut off on Wed 4th as they split the shell of the shop into parts. But the village hall car park will be completely shut on Thurs 5th as the transport company will be using a crane to load and remove the shop. The shop will be open as usual but access will have to be from the playing field side. Please bear with us and we will post notices to remind people and also to let you all know if anything changes. And once the old building has gone we'll get straight to work landscaping and getting the new building looking as it should.

The new shop has been a real success with the café seeing good use, and the Hobbs House bread proving very popular. We're also stocking sandwiches now. The latest change is that we now stock some wine and beer. We can't compete with the supermarkets on price so our emphasis has been to try to stock something a bit different and from local suppliers. We have fine wines from Woodchester, and then a range of more unusual wines from around the world but selected and supplied by a Stroud wine merchant. The beers are from Stroud brewery and Severn Brewery in Wotton, and the cider is from Orchard Revival in North

Nibley. So if you want something a bit different do give it a try. And please give feedback via our suggestion box.

Can we use this moment to also say a big thank you to Abby Birkbeck for all the creative design work she has done to give the shop its look and feel. Her work on the logo is used on our website, and Facebook, and on the shopping bags amongst many other places. The latest addition is the sign at the front. Abby is developing her design business so please do contact her if you need any creative work done.

We've been asked about our mask



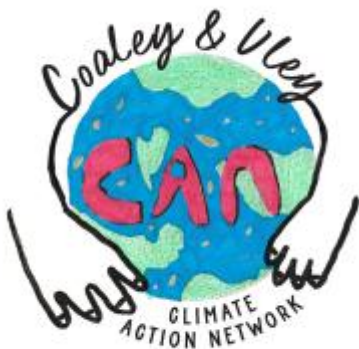
policy. Clearly, the law no longer requires us to wear masks in shops but we, like most other shops, are saying that we would prefer people did to be on the safe side. Can I just say thank you to everyone for wearing them up until now. We will keep this under review as, hopefully, the pandemic recedes.

With summer coming do take advantage of the café, and sit outside

as the weather allows. It's lovely in the sun! But it's also a great time to work in the shop so if you fancy volunteering just let us know. With travel restrictions removed I think we're all taking the chance to catch up on a few holidays, so inevitably we'll need to fill gaps and the more volunteers involved the better. We're proud to be one of the few community shops in the country to be run entirely by volunteers with no paid staff, and we'd love to keep it that way!

NEWS FROM CUCAN

The latest garden-themed repair café was held in the village hall on Saturday



the 5th March. It was a great success and very well attended. Lots of people enjoyed the lovely refreshments provided by the WI and The Coaley Produce Show had lots of interest in their seed swap. We'd like to send a big thank you to our kind repairers Phil Spiers (tools); Paul Hofman (Tools) and Alex Reeves (bike repairs) for giving up their Saturday afternoon to help us. They were kept very busy!

Since Spring is here and our gardens are calling to many of us, we have

decided to repeat the garden-theme for our next repair café, which will be held in Uley Village Hall on the Sunday 8th May from 2-4pm. This will include garden tool repairs and hopefully a plant swap. Look out for posters and on the Coaley Community Facebook page for more details.

And if you would like to garden in a



more environmentally- or wildlife-friendly manner this year, here are five easy things you can do:

1. Join in with Plantlife's 'No Mow May': all you need to do... is nothing at all! Just lock up your lawnmower on May 1st and let the wildflowers in your lawn bloom, providing a feast of nectar for our hungry pollinators.
2. Switch to peat-free compost:

Peatlands represent one of our most threatened habitats and contain some of our rarest species. Peat has only been a common compost ingredient since the 1970s and many large gardens such as Kew Gardens and Hidcote now operate successfully without it. There are some outstanding brands of peat-free compost, some of which regularly out-perform peat-based ones in trials.

3. Feed the soil, not the plants: A healthy soil, rich in organic matter and teeming with micro- and macro-organisms, will look after your plants. Add plenty of organic matter (manure/compost etc) either dug in or just spread in a layer over the surface. As worms, beetles and other soil-dwellers get to work, drainage will improve, the soil will be aerated and nutrients will become available to help your plants thrive.

4. Conserve moisture: Planting densely and using a thick mulch (about 7cm) not only reduces evaporation from the soil but also reduces the number of weeds. Excessive evaporation can also be avoided by watering the soil around the base of the plants (rather than foliage), avoiding sprinklers and watering early morning or evening. Install a water-butt or two to reduce dependence on expensive tap water.

5. Avoid pesticides and herbicides: Garden chemicals not only damage the wildlife in your garden but can leach into waterways, polluting the wider environment. Instead, try to encourage useful predators (e.g. lacewings,

ladybirds, ground beetles, birds and frogs) by providing habitats such as a pond, log pile, trees and hedges. Weeds can be hand-pulled and outcompeted by planting densely with the plants you do want. If you do use commercial pesticides or herbicides, try some that are approved for organic growing.



JUBILEE EVENTS

Events are being planned for the Jubilee Weekend.

Thursday 2nd June

Children's Party with tea and a disco. Junior School children are invited from 3pm to 5pm in the Main Hall. Older children are invited from 6pm till 9pm to a disco in the Main Hall.

Sunday 5th June

Hog roast with a vegetarian alternative from 12.30 pm on the playing field (in the Hall if wet)

In the afternoon there will be fun activities on the playing field.

It is intended to organise a "FUN SPORT'S DAY" for adults and children, possibly including tug of war.

Also being planned is a Pet Show for dogs and other pets - see separate article.

Other things include a Scarecrow Competition - bring your scarecrow ready made to the field.

Please bring your own picnic chairs or rug to sit on.

Other ideas are welcome and will be accommodated if possible.

Any one wishing to have a stall to raise money for Charity is welcome to have a stall on the field.

On June 5th there will be a Jubilee Songs of Praise at the Church at 6pm.

It is hoped to have a Beacon on Coaley Peak but permission to have this is still awaited.

For more details contact Barbara Davis 890679 Or barbaradavis4119@gmail.com

JUBILEE FLOWERS

It is intended to "yarn bomb" the centre of the village with knitted or crocheted flowers in red, white and blue. The same pattern as the Remembrance Day Poppies can be used. Wool and patterns will be available in the shop. Contact Barbara Davis 890679.



COALEY PANTOMIME

We are currently planning the next pantomime and are in need of a director to help put the show on stage. If you have seen the pantomime you will understand that it is a team effort to bring it all together and key to this team is the director. So if you have any experience at directing or would like to give it a go please contact Keri James (Chair) on 01453 890104

PET SHOW

Join us for a Jubilee Pet Show on Sunday 5th June. It will be held on the Recreation Field (exact start time to follow) with free entries via the shop (more details to follow) and on the day. Open to all Coaley residents and members of Coaley School/organisations.

The classes are:

Dogs

Fancy Dress

Cutest Puppy (12 weeks to 12 months)

Adorable Adults (12 months plus)

Golden Oldie (7 years +)

Most Handsome Dog

Prettiest Bitch

Waggiest Tail

Most Appealing Eyes

Judges Favourite

Small Furrries - (Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Rats etc)

Open Class - (Any animal not in the above class eg, Goldfish, Chickens)

Please be considerate of other pets, owners are fully responsible for their pets.

A real family treat where both adults and children can join in to make this a fun day out to remember.

SUPPORT UKRAINE

St. Bartholomew's Church, Coaley.

On Sunday March 6th the collection at the morning service was to provide humanitarian aid for the people of Ukraine.

Many, many thanks to the congregation who were extremely generous and raised an incredible amount of over £500 which included a donation from the PCC disaster fund, the total of all money raised will be matched by the government pound for pound through the Emergency Disaster Fund

This means over £1000 will be donated to support the people of Ukraine.

Thanks again and God Bless.

PLAYGROUP

Topics

This term we have been learning about people who help us. We are very excited to be having a visit from a fire engine and a police car over the next few weeks. Towards the end of term, the topic will be all things spring and we are very much looking forward to the weather getting warmer. We will also be having a little trip to one of the local farms.

Donations

As we have said before we are a charity playgroup and rely on donations and fundraising to keep things going. We are looking for a few new dolls and accessories so please get in touch if you have any you no longer need.

Fundraising

We have a few fundraisers lined up including CoaleyRocks in April (please see poster for more information) and fingers crossed for the return of the sheep hunt in September!

Help needed

We are also looking for a local handyman who could help us with a few little jobs as and when we may need some help. Most recently it has been jobs such as putting up some

shelves or putting some new felt on the shed roof after the storm. If this is something you may be able to help with please do get in touch.

Availability

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 for more information about availability.

Our opening times are changing from September 2022. Please see the new times below.

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/>

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

Gmail: coaleyplaygroup@gmail.com
Telephone: 07434364850

September 2022 Session Times

	Morning session	Full session
Monday, Wednesday and Friday	8:50am – 12:50pm	8:50am – 2:50pm
Tuesday and Thursday	8:50am - 12:50pm	closed

COALEY VILLAGE PLAYGROUP PRESENTS

APRIL 30TH 2022
COALEY VILLAGE
HALL

BAR OPEN FROM 19.00
MUSIC FROM
20.00-23.30

COALEY ROCKS

TICKETS £6
FROM COALEY SHOP

ALL PROCEEDS TO
COALEY VILLAGE
PLAYGROUP



Foo Fighters ACDC Greenday Dandy Warhols Blondie The White Stripes
The Killers Nirvana Arctic Monkeys Billy Idol Queen Bon Jovi and more

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

ARCHALLA
ROCK AND ROLL BAND

MB
07405 839099
Mega Bite

MEGABITE
burger van
open TO ALL from 18.00

WI

In February we heard from Coaley and Uley climate action group who started the talk with a climate temperature chart from the ice age to present day and showed how things will progress if no action is taken. CUCAN have completed a baseline carbon footprint of Coaley and Uley and there is a tool on the WWF website that shows you how to do this to track your own carbon footprint. CUCAN have worked with local schools who designed their logo and they have been teaching school children how to make bug hotels. We were pleased to join forces with CUCAN for the repair café which was well attended and had a gardening



theme with seed swaps and workshops. Our café will be open again at the plant swap so make sure you have the dates in your diary. 1 and 2nd May.

In March our speaker was Lizzie, a crossword writer and she explained how to compile and how to solve them. A grid is the first step in compiling a crossword, then the words are filled and finally the clues are written. Cryptic clues have a definition at the beginning or the end and involve an element of wordplay. Solving tips included trying to read the compiler's mind, not reading the clue as a sentence and ignoring punctuation. A good way to learn is to look at the solution and work backwards.

Remember the compiler wants you to solve it.

Like many groups, we are working on our plans for the Queens jubilee celebrations and our May meeting will include a competition for the best memorabilia relating to Queen Elizabeth II.

We are really enjoying being back in the hall and its been wonderful to see so many new members join us. Welcome.

Future meetings are listed below. For further information contact coaleywi@hotmail.com

May 18th

Barry Wicks Wild Thing

We look after our pets but who looks after the wildlife? Barry tells us about his Wildlife rescue work and how we can help.

June 15th

Katherines garden

Richard Mayer opens his beautiful garden in Swinhay to raise funds for the hospice movement in memory of his daughter Catherine. You can see a copy of Prince Charles grand henhouse.

July 20th

Godsells cheese

Start with a glass of wine and settle down to a night of cheese tasting with our local Cheese producers.

A photograph of a basket filled with various colorful Easter eggs, including white, gold, orange, green, pink, and silver speckled ones. The basket is placed in a garden setting with several bright yellow daffodils and green foliage in the background. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, bold, sans-serif font with a black outline.

St Bartholomew's Church

Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Monday Morning

10.30am

**Hunt for nests of chocolate eggs
in the church grounds
Refreshments**

SCHOOL

We have had a super term at Coaley Primary Academy, with a sporting thread running through all we have done.

The children always have a wealth of opportunities to play outside, take part in Forest Schools each week and have an active time. However, this term we have seen the return of competitive sports too! Coaley is blessed with a large outside space and the children go out onto the field every day to play, run and have a great time. The children bring in their wellies so they can be outside on the field come rain or shine. It might not make the field look pristine but it definitely looks well loved.

To capitalise on the children's sporting spirit, we have also been taking part in some competitive competitions this term as we open up from lockdown and are once again allowed to take part in competitive sports with other schools.

Our fantastic footballers took to the field to play against an array of other schools in our first football competition in a while. The children played with panache, style and worked as a team to beat a number of schools. For me, the most important part of their

competitive spirit was how well they cheered on their opponents, despite beating many schools, always giving three cheers to their opponents at the end of each game.

We also had a rugby coach in from Gloucester Rugby Club to work with two of our classes on their rugby skills of passing, swerving and playing tag-rugby. The children were ambassadors of behaviour, as you would expect, playing and learning new skills too.

Finally, we have taken part in the Stroud schools cross-country competition and all the children who took part ran amazingly well. They had to run nearly a mile over rough terrain and up steep climbs to reach the finishing line. I was a very proud Headteacher of all the children who took part that day!

At Coaley, we are very proud of our academic achievement but we also recognise that there is more to a primary school than just that. This sporting prowess just shows the wealth of experience that the children get from being at your lovely, village primary school.



COALEYFEST '22

FRIENDS OF COALEY SCHOOL (FOCS)

.....

25TH JUNE

.....

3PM- 10PM

.....

FAMILY FUN

LIVE MUSIC

FOOD & DRINK

.....

COALEY PRIMARY ACADEMY - SCHOOL FIELD

.....

TICKETS ON SALE FROM 9TH MAY

DETAILS TO FOLLOW



A CHRISTMAS TREE WITH A DIFFERENCE

I know that it is only April, but I would like to turn our thoughts to Christmas. Coaley would like to have a Christmas Tree with a difference this year and to achieve this we need to call on all knitters please.

We would love to make a 'bobble hat' Christmas Tree and all the hats are then donated to those people living outside especially through the cold months of January, February and March. Gloucester City Mission & Cheltenham Guardian Angels have already been approached and think it is a wonderful idea.



Any pattern for a bobble hat can be used from a simple rib and stocking stitch to a fancy cable. Whatever people feel comfortable with knitting. Adult sizes please.

We need approximately 150 bobble hats. For those who cannot knit we can use 2nd hand bobble hats from

charity shops to supplement those hand knitted. Bobbles become the baubles as can be seen in the picture.

Let's rise to the challenge and aspire to achieve this for those less fortunate than ourselves.

WALK FOR LONGFIELD

Remember a loved one by taking part in this year's Walk for Longfield.

Longfield Community Hospice will be hosting a spring walk at 10.30 am on Sunday 15 May and encourages locals to sign up for the perfect family day out.

The 'Walk for Longfield' will offer a choice of 5 or 10km routes, setting off from Longfield's beautiful hospice grounds in Minchinhampton and crossing Minchinhampton and Rodborough Commons. A cuppa and home-baked cakes will await you on your return



All money raised will help fund Longfield's vital work providing care for adults in Gloucestershire with life-limiting

conditions and support for their families and carers.

Register your interest at longfield.org.uk/event/walk-for-longfield

St Bartholomew's Church, Coaley

Music & Cake

featuring

Talented young musicians in

Clarinet Capers

Sunday 3rd April

3pm

**Short informal & free concerts in church
followed by tea, cake & a chance to chat.**

All Welcome

NURTURE NATURE

A correspondent commented about the fact that too much fat in the diet is being fed to birds in the form of fat balls and suet pellets by well meaning bird lovers in their garden feeding stations, and the parents then feed too much fat to their young, creating conditions which could well be contributing to the decline of species. This correspondent has often wondered why he had never seen an overweight wild bird. Is anyone aware of any research being carried on re bird obesity? A well balanced diet on bird tables and feeders shouldn't cause any problems for our garden and wild birds. The writer often doesn't feed the birds at all for up to three days periodically in order to encourage birds to find their own food rather than being totally dependent on bird tables. Most species can survive for three days without food during periods of inclement weather. Many feeders are blown to the ground in storms and wild weather. This is a good opportunity to give them a good wash in a mild solution of warm water and washing up liquid to help combat diseases such as trichomoniasis, which adversely affects especially finch species. Also after storms ensure that nest boxes are secure, some may need replacing. Robins, tit species and blackbirds and others have already paired and even started collecting nesting material, so do take care to ensure nests are not exposed when trimming foliage, as such exposure would cause birds to desert. Last year bird numbers were well down due to inclement weather and lack of insects to feed the

nestlings. Please will everyone do all that they can to protect and promote a successful breeding season, otherwise more species will be lost.

Those of you, especially those who are bigger land owners and farmers might be interested to see a Country file programme on hedges, both the restoring of older hedges and planting of new. Hedges and tree lines are so important for wild life, especially for birds, bats and other wildlife. It's not too late to plant and renew. Hedges and trees are carbon positive.

Otis Tarda

P.S. Peregrine falcon still likes to survey the world from Coaley Church tower. It is there fairly frequently, residents report

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Wednesday 27th April 2022 at 7.30pm, in the Jubilee Room.

The Parish Council will be reporting on the activities of the last year.

This is an opportunity for parishioners to raise any concerns or issues with the council.

Your County and District Councillors have been invited to attend the meeting, they will provide a report and will also be available to answer questions.

St Bartholomew's, Coaley

Palm Sunday

9.30am Holy Communion
and distribution of palms

Procession from car park into Church

Good Friday

2pm Reflections at the foot of the cross

Easter Sunday

9.30 Holy Communion

with lighting of Paschal Candle

EXPERIENCE EASTER

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