

Coaley Parish

NEWSLETTER

Issue no 130

June / July 2023



Summer Fete Programme

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
24th June	Summer Fete	noon-4pm	Recreation ground
2nd July	Gardens' Cup judging	from 2pm	
9th July	Music and Cake	3pm	Churchyard
29th Sept - 1st Oct	Flower and Harvest Festival		Church

Parish Council meetings are normally on the first Tuesday of each month, except August, at 7.30pm.

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 Sunday 16th July 2023.

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: Coronation post box topper (more on page 5).

SUMMER FETE

The Coaley Summer Fete is taking place on the Rec on 24 June from 12noon to 4pm. The fete is free to enter and has been arranged for the people of Coaley and family friends. There will be something for everyone with all of the ingredients of a traditional village fete!

The events programme includes:

Hog roast, hot dogs and veggie burgers

Tea and cakes from the WI

Ice creams from the shop

Bar from the Old Fox

Children's races and story time

Inflatables

Welly wanging and Tug of war

Dog Show

Films and photographs of Coaley past and present

Music and entertainment

Fire engine

Treasure hunt

Fancy Fox competition

Traditional games: tin can alley, coconut shy, electric maze, splat the rat to have a go at.

An appearance of Mother Hubbard who

will tell an original children's story about Coaley.

Bring along a rug or some folding chairs and don't forget to slap on the sun cream.

Before the day:

Pick up a Fancy Fox from the village shop to decorate and enter the children's competition.

Dig out any old photographs of the village for our display in the Jubilee room.

We will be taking photographs and filming on the day to use in publicity so if you prefer to not appear in these let us know.

We do need some help! If you can lend a hand to set up or spare an hour on the day please let us know. A meeting has also been arranged on 13 June at 7.30pm or you can email Les Compton at lscmptn@btinternet.com

The fete is sponsored by the Parish Council, CADs, Everhot, Rocket rentals, Old Fox, The Pulse, Muller, The George Veterinary Group.

Why not check out Coaley Facebook page for further information.

SCHOOL

Since I've been at Coaley, we have grown in size; we currently have over 70 children in school. We still have a small school feel and know everyone as individuals but having more children in the Coaley family means that we are more sustainable in the long term and are able to have more teachers and resources. It also means that Coaley village continues to be a thriving village with a shop, church and school, and lively local community. Particularly over the last year, a raft of delightful new children and families have arrived and they have all settled in so well.

Over the Easter holidays, we had our trim-trail revamped and added to and it looks fabulous. The children have been

using the new surface to play on and the monkey bars are proving a big hit! I've noticed that parents are struggling to tempt their children away at the end of the day as they are having such fun on them. Friends of Coaley School (FOCS) have made a HUGE contribution to the new equipment and I'd like to thank them all for their generosity, especially the committee who work so hard on behalf of all our parents to provide such a sizable sum towards the cost. We also had a large contribution from the Coaley Primary School Trust which also donated a considerable amount to help us be able to fund it.

The Coronation was definitely a day to celebrate and at Coaley we did it in our own Coaley style with a party, cakes





and a talent show. Lots of children took part and everyone had a great time, sharing their skills and talents to a willing audience, who ate cakes between acts. The children dressed up in their finest glad-rags and it was a fun-filled afternoon. The children were brilliant as you'd expect and it got them ready to continue to celebrate the weekend's events too. We hope you all had a fun-packed Royal weekend as well.

POST POX TOPPERS.

The post box toppers for the Coronation were knitted by two members of the Coaley Knitting Group. They are in fact a good example of recycling,

The crowns were initially made for the Platinum Jubilee of the late Queen and were refreshed for the coronation. After all, the same crown has been used for hundreds of years to crown the monarch.

The post box toppers of the King and Queen were also remodelled. The figures of the Late Queen were reused to represent Queen Camilla and the footsoldiers from one postbox remodelled as the King.

Patterns were not used to make the crowns but produced from the imagination of the knitters. A basic pattern of knitted Christmas ornaments - a fairy and a toy soldier, were adapted for the royal couple

The red, white and blue rosettes were also reused, being the ones knitted for the Platinum Jubilee. These will be left in place for the Village fete in June.

COALEY SHOP – SUMMER IS COMING

Shop improvements

We are trying to get an extra chiller for the shop, and if we do it will mean we can put all the vegetables in a chiller. This will let us keep a wider range and it will have a better shelf life. It will mean shifting various things around so if you can't find what you want in the usual place then do just ask.

We are also reviewing our stock generally so please do let us know if there's anything you would like us to think about keeping.

New bags



We've been amazed by how many Coaley Shop shopping bags we've sold – so we've got more. This time they are dark green and come in two designs – organic cotton and natural jute. They were designed in the village and

produced in the village.

They make great presents as well as helping reduce plastic waste if your supermarket bags-for-life are running out of steam.

Pop in and take a look.

Are you a great admin person?

Most of our volunteers do shifts behind the till, which isn't always an option for some people. But if you are a great admin person and would like to volunteer in the shop doing a few hours now and then to suit you, then we'd love to hear from you. We have all sorts of manuals and files that need keeping up to date and it would be wonderful if someone could lick us into shape!

General volunteering

Volunteering has come into the spotlight recently with the Big Help Out. It's great for you and great for everyone else in the village. With summer coming and all of our volunteers naturally going on holiday at various times, we really could do with more volunteers to help out. Can you give up a few hours every other week? Full training given. Please contact me if you'd like to help at steve.wills@outlook.com or on 07867 672400.

DAVID BILLETT PORTRAIT

The Village Hall Committee was very grateful to receive the residue of the estate of the late David Billett. This has enabled the Committee to make improvements in the Hall, including the refurbishment of the disabled toilets, new flooring in the gent's cloakroom, upgrading the facilities in the Jubilee Room, installing WiFi and eventually installing solar panels.

As a mark of appreciation the Committee commissioned a portrait of him.

The portrait was unveiled on the afternoon of May 21st. This will be hung in the foyer, where it will be seen by all who enter the building.



Above: Steven Billett, David's brother with Sally Hysslop the artist and Tony Eve, the hall chairman.



COALEYROCKS 2023

Coaley Village Playgroup would like to extend a massive thank you to everyone who attended and supported CoaleyRocks 80sish on the 29th April. Around 80 people attended the biggest CoaleyRocks yet and we raised a brilliant £1236.63 which we are hoping to use to build an outdoor shelter which will house the children's wellyboots and give them more cover from the sun or rain when they are playing outside.

The night kicked off with music from Crates Family Disco followed by The Bohemian Bar Thieves playing a range of 80's rock hits and a few from the subsequent decades too. Megabyte Burger Van was in attendance and did a steady trade supplying the revellers

with food throughout the night. The people of Coaley rocked up in their 80's glad rags and partied the night away in great style. Craig and Kate of Crates Family Disco were absolutely brilliant and we can't thank them enough for giving up their time to play at our event. The Bohemian Bar Thieves were very happy to venture out of Bristol and return to the bright lights of Coaley and were super pleased to see so many of you on the dancefloor.

We'd like to thank Lesley Chalmers and Tony Eve at the Village Hall for their help and patience getting us set up and fielding numerous extra requests and queries from our Chair. Thanks to Chantelle Walker and Tim Kidner who worked tirelessly on the





door, Tim doubling on the bar as the evening went on. Thanks to Tim Moore and Jeremy Keating for manning the bar and keeping everyone 'well hydrated.' Thanks also to all of our lovely Gin Ladies (as you shall now forever be known!); Playgroup's very own Becky Court and Sarah Portlock, Jackie Davis and Anne Morgan, Carly Baird and Leanne Mann. Special thanks to Anne, Carly and Leanne who are invariably the last to leave after helping tidy up at the end of the night, this time being no exception. And an extra mention is due to Carly for so beautifully assisting Susy Keating in the calling of the raffle. Many thanks to Mike Davis for taking so many absolutely stunning pictures of the evening and thanks to Stephen Cook for so expertly managing the ceremonial hanging of the disco ball. Thanks also to the Produce Show and the WI who were in the hall hanging up bunting and setting out the plant sale and swap only a few hours after we had finished packing away the band and clearing the dancefloor.

We were lucky enough to be supported by a number of local businesses who donated prizes for the raffle. So please help us in supporting them back: Megabite not only gave their time but also very generously donated £80 to the playgroup. Abdul, the owner of Megabite has been a great devotee of CoaleyRocks right from the start despite his daughters having left playgroup a good few years ago and we're so grateful for his support and his most excellent burgers (an honourable mention for the cheesy chips also). Our

good friends at The Old Fox donated a whopping £40 voucher for the raffle and we were overwhelmed by the plentiful donations from The Crown in Uley, Intersound Guitars, Gravity, The Frocester George, Tesco, Coaley Community Shop and the beautiful handmade gift from Katie one of our playgroup mums and the entrepreneur behind Oak and Pine.

Most of all, thanks to all of you who attended, sang along and danced the night away. Our Chair Susy is already planning CoaleyRocks 2024 so watch this space. With your support at CoaleyRocks, The Sheephunt (coming again to Coaley on the 17th September), quiz at the Old Fox on the 26th of June and the Trick or Treat Halloween Trail, the playgroup is going from strength to strength. We are currently completely full and continue to have a waiting list for spaces in the upcoming school year; another glowing testament to what a wonderful community we're lucky enough to be part of. If you are interested in sending your little ones to join us at playgroup, please don't hesitate to get in touch to ensure you're on the waiting list as early as possible. Until next time... Rock On Coaley!

Susy Keating (Chairperson Coaley Playgroup)



COALEY VILLAGE FETE

From Past to Present

Saturday 24th June 2023

12 noon to 4pm

COALEY RECREATION GROUND

FREE ENTRY

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

- Dog Show •
- Childrens Races •
- Hog Roast •
- WI Tea and Cakes •
- The Old Fox – Cash Bar •
- Tug of War •
- Welly Wanging •
- Children's Corner •
- Treasure Hunt •
- Village History Exhibition •
- Entertainment •
- Special Guest •
- Inflatable Play Equipment •



With grateful thanks to all of our generous sponsors
Further info to follow on the Coaley Community Facebook Page

WI

Coaley WI welcomed Annabel, a local hat maker who lives in the village to talk about her business. Annabel grew up in Shropshire and had always wanted to work in the fashion industry which she did starting as a pattern cutter then branching off into millinery. Annabel has done lots of courses and there are lots more available. She used to have an Etsy shop (an on line craft website) but Brexit has made this more difficult with procedures and costs for shipping goods abroad. We were able to see designs in various stages and lots of different fabrics and styles as well as ideas for decorating hats such as feathers. Annabel is cautious where she buys her supplies from and likes to make sure they are ethical and good quality. Although many tools are available, Annabel uses a steam iron for manipulating the fabrics and chair legs for bending feathers! It was a fascinating talk with lots of questions and discussion.

Members entered decorated hats into this month's competition and Barbara won with her hat covered in knitted flowers.

We have been delighted to welcome many new members to our group and we hope you enjoy the evenings as much as we do.

We were fortunate with the weather for this year's plant swap and the WI café welcomed many people into the hall for refreshments. Profits from the event were over £600. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make

this a success and to everyone who came along to join us for teas and cake. Money from these events help us to reduce our annual subs and to pay for speaker and trips along with charitable donations.

Our May meeting started with entry into the national WI raffle draw for everyone who bought a ticket for a local raffle, lets hope we have a winning ticket amongst them. Our guest speaker was Hayley Scott who spent 14 years with the Metropolitan police where she was a Forensic scientist. She worked on over 15,000 crime scenes and all sorts of crimes including burglaries, rape and murder. One case she worked on was solved from an initial break with a discarded cigarette butt providing DNA evidence. Hayley talked about the differences between fingerprint patterns and how CSI look for finger marks at crime scenes (not fingerprints which are intentionally taken). Reports are written at the scene as comprehensively as possible as it can be years before a case comes to court and its not always easy to remember details. Hayley now has her own business giving talks about CSI work and also runs events such as parties on a CSI theme.

In June we are hiring a coach for our wine tasting trip which we are looking forward to

The WI will be running our café at the village fete on June 24th and we hope you will join us again

June Dunlop
Secretary

A photograph of St Bartholomew's Church in Coaley, showing the stone building with a tall tower and several Gothic windows. In the foreground, there is a green lawn with several stone grave markers and a large stone font. The sky is overcast.

St Bartholomew's Church, Coaley

Music & Cake in the Churchyard

Join us at 3pm on Sunday July 9th
for al fresco afternoon tea
with musical entertainment

PLANT SWAP

The plant swap raised a fantastic £882. Many thanks to our growers, stall holders and everyone else who contributed. Money raised will go to Produce Show funds and helps us provide things like the Christmas tree and planters outside the shop.

GARDENS' CUP

The theme for the Gardens' Cup competition this year is "Front Gardens".

Any size front garden can be entered- from one or two pots to a grand front garden.

Judging will take place on the afternoon of 2nd July. The judges are expert gardeners themselves and are always willing to answer your questions and give advice. They don't expect pristine exhibition standard gardens and are more interested in what you have made of the space. Modest gardens have won the cup in previous years. If you'd like to enter forms are available in the shop. Judging can take place in your absence if you are away.

How lovely the roadsides and hedges look with foaming cow parsley on the verges and all the hawthorn blossom out in the hedges, great for wildlife. A benefit of the energy crisis as local authorities and landowners cut down on expensive roadside maintenance, unless a danger to road users. Very few hirondines (martins and swallows) have been seen so far this year. However, it was pleasing to note that some householders have erected martin boxes under the eaves. The cold weather killed many garden birds last winter. Wrens are very susceptible to the cold and not many wrens have been seen, or heard this year, the writer has not seen one and a pair used to nest regularly in ivy on a fence. He remembers, when living in a thatched house with deep eaves counting wrens going to roost in a gap in the thatch eave at dusk in winter. One year over twenty were counted roosting together for warmth. The tit species also suffered in the inclement December and January weather. A box used annually by great tits is not occupied this year. This could possibly be due to the box not having been cleaned out in November and a species of wild bee had taken over occupancy. The owner finding out the hard way when putting his hand in without gloves to clean out old nesting material and having to withdraw his hand quickly with half a dozen angry wild bees clinging to his hand.

I think readers will find it noticeable that the garden bird scenario has changed over the last few years. Now, the corvid family, wood pigeons and grey

NURTURE NATURE

squirrels are marauding garden bird feeders, and are very much more prominent. This phenomenon is upsetting the balance of nature in gardens and there is more predation of nests and fledglings too. Garden bird feeders are not designed for corvids. A rook or crow with its beak like a hammer drill can easily get through even metal feeders. Recently the cock of a nesting pair of blackbirds, in defending its territory, had its leg severed by a rook, and fluttering away was never seen again. The hen blackbird valiantly kept feeding their nestlings for a couple of days until taken by a sparrow hawk and the hungry nestlings were then predated by a grey squirrel. Having written earlier that hirondines appear to be ever declining there are several local locations where swifts have nested for

years, such as in church towers, but have not, and are not returning to these ancestral homes. The success of these migrations depends mainly on the weather. They prefer wet and warm weather for travelling which encourages the hatching of swarms of insects for survival on their passage. Scientists have estimated that a pair of birds can consume some 20,000 insects and arachnids in a day. All these three species however are in decline and in 2021 swifts were added to the Red List of our endangered birds having suffered a 60% decrease over the last quarter of a century. Scientists fear that in time none of these three beautiful migrants will return to these shores.

Otis Tarda



SAVE THE DATES

Friday 29th Sept / Saturday 30th Sept / Sunday 1st October 2023

After being asked:

“When is the next Flower Festival being held at St. Bartholomew’s - Coaley ??”

We have decided to incorporate Harvest Thanksgiving and stage a weekend of various activities for all.

We would love to hear from you if you would like to be involved on any level or have a passion of flowers and foliage.

All proceeds from this event will be going towards the upkeep of the church. I’m sure that everyone in the village would miss this remarkable landmark if it was not there. Unfortunately, like many of us old age doesn’t come alone and many of its attributes need “First Aid”.

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW.

Please contact Sarah Randall thegranary89@gmail.com if you interested in any way.

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.percy@stroud.gov.uk	890818
GCC Councillor	Wendy Thomas wendy.thomas@gloucestershire.gov.uk	
Vicar	Graham Stacey	709859
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
Friendship Group	Pam Sweetland	890513
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