



# Coaley Parish NEWSLETTER

Issue no 133

December 2023 / January 2024

**Christmas events**  
**Panto rescheduled**

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
3rd Dec	Very Coaley Christmas	4.00 pm -6.30 pm	Hall
5th Dec	Friendship	3.30 pm	Hall
7th Dec	Knitting	2.30 pm	Lapley Bungalow
10th Dec	Words and Music for a Winter Afternoon	3.00 pm	Church
11th Dec	Whist	2.00 pm	Hall
17th Dec	Carols by Candlelight	4.00 pm	Church
24th Dec	Crib Service	2.00 pm	Church
4th Jan	Knitting	2.30 pm	The Close
9th Jan	Friendship Group	2.30 pm	Hall
15th Jan	Whist	2.00 pm	Hall
19th Jan - 20th Jan	Rescheduled Panto performances		Hall

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](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  
Tuesday 16th January 2024.

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

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

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

This issue edited by Stephen Cook.

Cover picture: Autumn colours near Coaley Peak by Milke Davis



St Bartholomews Church and Coaley Produce Show  
present

The Big Christmas  
Light Switch On!

Craft Stalls

Christmas Cards and  
Wrapping Paper

Festive refreshments  
homemade cake and mulled wine

Entertainment from Woodford Silver Band  
Coaley Hand Bell Ringers  
and the children of Coaley School

Make your Christmas gifts  
with Paint-a-Pot

Coaley Village Hall Sunday 3rd Dec 16.00-18.30

A Very Coaley Christmas

# CHRISTMAS IS COMING

The TV is full of adverts for Christmas gifts, clothes and, of course, delicious things to eat. So where better to get some of your Christmas goodies than Coaley Community shop? We already have Christmas cookies in stock and lots more seasonal items are on the way, including Cadbury's selection boxes, Christmas puddings and mulled wine. We also have Christmas lights and pet treats. Please tell us if there is anything special that you would like to see in the shop.

## Volunteer training

A few weeks ago we had a very successful volunteer training session. 26 volunteers attended to learn and discuss a range of issues that are essential if we are to keep the shop running smoothly and offer an efficient service to you, our customers. Among other things we covered the newspaper systems, health and hygiene, VAT and how to deal with restricted items.



This not only demonstrates how much goes on behind the scenes at the shop but also the incredible dedication of our volunteers. Without them the shop could not run so smoothly and be such

a community focus in the village.

If you could spare a little time and would be interested in becoming a volunteer just pop into the shop and ask whoever is behind the counter.

## Suggestions box

We always listen to our customers and try to respond positively. We have a suggestions box but if you haven't seen it just ask. As a response to customer suggestions we now stock pet toys, there's a mirror in the bathroom and we've introduced a loyalty scheme.

## Spread the word



Have you seen the new signs around the village promoting the shop? There are a couple at the Peter's Street junction and another one up from the pub. We are trialling these and will professionalise them when we've assessed the feedback.

We are trying hard to encourage more people to use the shop and promote it more effectively. You can help! If you enjoy using the shop tell your friends. Word of mouth is the best advertisement.

## Christmas Opening hours:

Saturday 23rd	9.00 – 12.00
Christmas Eve, Sunday 24th	9:00 – 12:00
Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day, Tuesday 26th	10.00 – 12.00
Wednesday 27th - Friday 29th	9.00 – 5.00
Saturday 30th	9.00 – 12.00
Sunday 31st	9.00 – 12.00
New Year's Day, Monday 1st	9.00 – 12.00

## PANTO

Fear not, Coaley Panto will be back in January next year! Unfortunately COVID struck and for the safety of everyone, CADS were forced to make the very difficult decision to postpone our much loved village pantomime.

We were touched by the overwhelming support from the Coaley Community (Oh yes we were!) and the cast and crew were grateful for these heartfelt comments at what was a very disappointing time for all.

We very much look forward to our shows in January which will be held on:

Friday 19th of January (7:30pm)  
Saturday 20th of January (2:30pm)  
Saturday 20th of January (7:30pm)

Everyone who had tickets for Friday evening, Saturday matinee & Saturday evening performances should have received an email, text, WhatsApp, or telephone call. If you had tickets but have received neither of these please contact the box office at:  
coaleyamdramboxoffice@gmail.com.  
We can't wait to see you there!

## WHEELIE BIN STICKERS

The council has purchased a quantity of 30 mph speed limit stickers designed to be put on your wheelie bin. They will be available in the shop shortly, free of charge and one sticker per house. We intend them to be used on the main road through the village so please don't take one if you live elsewhere.

## PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF 14 HOUSES

The Parish Council has been contacted by a representative of Cotswold Homes who are in the early stages of a plan to build 14 houses on land next to The Close and Fox Meadow. The representative is attending the next Parish Council meeting at 7.30pm on 5th December to discuss the proposals. Members of the public may attend the meeting and speak in the open forum at the start of the meeting.



## SCHOOL

Coaley Fireworks is such a joy each year and this year was no exception. It was made a particularly special one due to the huge numbers of families that turned up! The weather was definitely on our side and we had the joys of the MegaBite meal machine to help feed the many hungry mouths. Seeing and hearing all the 'oos' and 'arhss' from the families was lovely and FOCS (Friends of Coaley School) put on quite a show. So many parents said afterwards how amazing it was and what a lovely and friendly school we are. I'd like to thank the staff and members of FOCS for putting together an amazing night, and clearing up so efficiently afterwards too.



The children had a wonderful time at the football tournament recently where we took two teams to a small schools football tournament in Stonehouse, with children from Year 3 & Year 4, and Year 5 & Year 6. What was particularly lovely for me was seeing all the children joining in and playing as a team, supporting one another and praising each other after each game. We were the first to give three cheers

to the other teams, despite some schools simply running off the pitch, and our sporting behaviours were top-notch! All the children were ambassadors for Coaley and showed the school values at all times. There were lots of goals scored by both teams and I was a very proud Headteacher that day. All the children came away with smiles on their faces and mud on their clothes, having played lots of football, been physically active and played well as a team. Playing any team sport is such a great thing for everyone to do and we try to do as much as we can at our small school.

We've had some very well-attended open mornings this term for parents looking to send their children to Coaley into our Reception class in September. In fact, we've had more than ever as the message is getting out about our wonderful village primary school. One of the main attractions is the weekly fun at our Forest School, where the children build, make and discover new things in our own forested area. For many, it's the highlight of the week and our experienced Forest Schools leaders make it a wonderful time for all. If you haven't come round to see Coaley in action, I'd definitely recommend visiting, especially if you are looking for a place for next year's Reception class.

As Christmas approaches, we'd all like to wish everyone in the village, and far and wide, a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and joyful New Year.



# CHRISTMAS AT THE FOX



## MUSIC NIGHT

With D'artagnan - Chrismassy music with a reggae twist, from 8.30pm

## MUSIC NIGHT

The return of the fabulous Steve Furbrache. Come and dance the night away, from 8.30pm.....



16th  
DEC



## CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Come & join us for mulled wine, mince pies and the wonderful voices of Coaley Choir.

## OUR BIG BOXING DAY QUIZ

Who has the brains in your family ? Book now to reserve your table and bring your left over nibbles too!



26th  
DEC



## NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Live Music, complimentary canapes, Friends, fun, singing & dancing 7-late.

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*



*From Julie, Ellie and all our  
team here at The Fox*







# FESTIVE

## Opening Hours @ The Old Fox

DEC 24	12pm - 11.30pm Kitchen closed evening
DEC 25	11am - 2pm Drinks only
DEC 26	12pm - 11.30pm Kitchen closed - (B.Y.O - food)
DEC 27	12pm - 11.30pm
DEC 28	12pm - 11.30pm
DEC 29	12pm - 11.30pm
DEC 30	12pm - 11.30pm
DEC 31	12pm - Late. Sunday lunch served - 4pm
JAN 1	12pm - 10.00pm Kitchen open from 12-6pm



## WI

Coaley WI talks recently included bees, hearing dogs and food!

Duncan talked to us about bees and explained that there are 70 crops in the UK that rely on bees for pollination and bees pollinate 80% of wild flowers showing just how important they are.

There are 250 types of bee, 220 types of solitary bees and just one type of honey bee (the only bee to live in a colony). We viewed pictures of the different types of bees in the colony, the work they do and the numbers of each in a typical hive. There can be up to 60,000 workers in a colony and they live for up to 6 weeks in the summer and 6 months in the winter whilst a queen bee will live for 3-5 years.

Following his talk, Duncan answered a number of questions and showed us a typical hive and the equipment used in bee keeping.

We also heard from Kate, a truly inspirational lady, who is blind and deaf and had her hearing dog with her.

There are hearing dogs and sound dogs which have different roles. A sound dog will alert the owner to a sound they need to be aware of whereas a hearing dog will do this and will guide the owner in situations and alert them to danger. It costs £40 thousand to train a hearing dog, the first £25 goes on breeding stock and initial training and the remainder covers the life of the dog. There are two training centres in the UK located in Buckingham and York. Kate explained how the training is a bit like learning to

drive, the dogs are taught what to do then will have a test and are assessed at different stages including when they are with their owner. Dogs who don't pass the training are still used as sound dogs or can be housed with people who aren't profoundly deaf (1 in 5 people have some kind of hearing loss). Hearing link is a charity that can help with hearing problems.

November is AGM time and reports had been prepared by the President, Treasurer and Secretary. These had been sent out to members prior to the meeting so they had time to read them and consider any questions.

Members then had an opportunity to ask questions about the reports before we enjoyed our prosecco and considered our Canape competition. We went through each of the canapes and members were asked to explain what their offering was and how it was made before everyone voted for their favourite canape. The joint winners were Liz and Suzie. Members voted by placing coins against their top three choices and the money raised will be donated to ACWW (associated country women of the world).

Suzie thanked everyone for the work and efforts put into the Produce show refreshments. We raised £372.88 from sales and donated £50 to Slimbridge scouts for the use of their marquee and £50 to the shop for the use of the shop as our venue. Suzie also congratulated all those who had been successful with entries into the produce show. The produce show committee produce the Coaley calendar and are

asking for more photos for next years calendar. Why not take photos throughout the year and submit them for the following years calendar. The produce show committee would like more entries.

At this years summer fete, a film was shown of Coaley fetes of the past. A copy of this with added images from this years fete is available to purchase – the footage is downloaded on to a memory stick and will cost £6 per copy.

June Dunlop  
Secretary  
Coaley WI

coaleywi@hotmail.com

## THE FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Please note, our Friendship Group has changed its meetings to the first Tuesday in the month.

We are a small group of people (there is no age limit) who meet in the Village Hall, from 2.30 to around 4pm, to have a chat and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. Our meetings vary - with board and card games, gentle quizzes (nothing too taxing!), an occasional visiting speaker, or an outing.

So, if you are at home on the first Tuesday in the month , would care for some company, just come along to the Village Hall for 2.30 - and we'd be happy to see you.

Isobel Farmer (890556)  
Pam Sweetland (890513)

*Spider and Friend by Gary Miles*





**St Bartholomew's Church, Coaley**

# **Crib Service**

**Christmas Eve**

**2pm**



**Angels,  
Shepherds,  
Wise men.  
Donkeys  
Families  
all welcome.**

**Children of all ages welcome**

## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

Recycle your Christmas Tree with Longfield.

Get organised and book your Christmas tree collection before you've even cooked the turkey.

For a voluntary donation, you'll get your tree whisked away by Longfield's team of volunteers and taken to recycling sites where it will be chipped into mulch, then scattered on pathways and car parks at Painswick Rococo Garden.

Last year, Longfield collected 3,000 trees from the Stroud, Cirencester and Gloucester districts in just three days, and raised nearly £50,000 for essential hospice care. This year, they're aiming to beat last year's record – costs of care are rising and they need every penny to provide free hospice care for dying people and their families, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Book your collection at [www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree](http://www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree).

Longfield couldn't run this scheme without the support of dozens of local businesses and volunteers who donate vans and drivers during the collection period.

If you can volunteer your time or a van, or both, for a day or more between 13th to 16th January, please contact Longfield at [events@longfield.org.uk](mailto:events@longfield.org.uk) or 01453 886868

## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

A HUGE thank you to everyone who supported the Macmillan coffee morning in the village shop, from the helpers and the fantastic cake bakers to the people who just came along for a chat with friends over a cup of coffee.

We managed to raise an amazing £610.00.

## PAVEMENT PARKING

It seems that a reminder about parking on pavements is required. It's not illegal to park on pavements but causing an obstruction is, so you can still be prosecuted for it. Parking on the pavement is selfish - it prevents people with pushchairs or mobility scooters etc. from passing and forces them on to the road. Also it doesn't make the road wide enough for two vehicles so it doesn't help anyone. Please don't do it.

## WHEELIE BIN STICKERS

The council has purchased a quantity of 30 mph speed limit stickers designed to be put on your wheelie bin. They will be available in the shop shortly, free of charge and one sticker per house. We intend them to be used on the main road through the village so please don't take one if you live elsewhere.





**St Bartholomew's Church, Coaley**

**Carols  
by  
Candlelight**

**Sunday 17th December**

**4pm**

**Refreshments  
All Welcome**

## NURTURE NATURE

With the recent named storms making headlines and the connection with changing climate patterns reminded one of looking back to other eras, e.g. the Ice Ages of the Pleistocene eras, a long time passing (2.58 million years to 11,700 years ago) with repeated periods of glaciations! In the last Ice Age Dogger Bank in the North Sea connected the British Isles to mainland Europe – one could walk from the East Coast of the British Isles to Scandinavia. The coming of the Ice Age wiped out the dinosaurs of the Jurassic Period, the point being that the earth and the world as we know it could be changing into another 'Age'.

Loss of coastal areas is not new, e.g. in the thirteenth century Dunwich on the East Coast was lost to the sea in 1286 in a massive storm. Again, along the East coast an enormous storm surge with strong winds and high tides overnight the North Sea rose by 5 metres and the death toll was 326. Many readers will remember that night of 31st January 1953. In the Netherlands the death toll was 2551, and 30,000 animals were drowned. One hopes that readers will not be alarmed by the above, but it is a fact of life on this planet that big changes do periodically take place. Maybe changes are now taking place accelerated by environmental factors worldwide, such changes, of course, have a knock-on effect for nature. Certainly garden birds have all but disappeared in many people's gardens. For the first time in living

memory some readers have reported that there are no resident blackbirds. In a recent David Attenborough TV programme he said that over the last sixty years the British Isles has lost 38 million birds. On Countryfile the current series has so far been interesting and informative, scientists have reported that our seasons have changed in length by three weeks, spring especially coming earlier. It is noticeable this autumn that leaves have stayed on deciduous trees for longer. Many spring and summer bird migrant numbers are down, some collapsed like the nightingales, a 90% loss in the last fifty years, there are no more returning to Hampstead Heath (and Berkeley Square?!) and their traditional nesting sites on Salisbury Plain for instance – conservationists now believe that invasive muntjac deer eating the scrub have contributed to their demise. However, locally the RSPB reserve at Hignam Woods just west of Gloucester is a good place to hear them. They are very difficult to see though, as they hide in the undergrowth. Hopefully we shall see and hear our winter migrants from Scandinavia – fieldfares, redwings, thrushes including blackbirds – yes, some do migrate – and if one is lucky in a severe winter, waxwings too. Happy Christmas to all our readers, and please remember to give our Christmas bird, the robin redbreast, a special treat.

Otis Tarda



**St Bartholomew's Church, Coaley**

**Words and Music  
for a Winter Afternoon**

**A light hearted entertainment  
with seasonal readings and music  
followed by refreshments  
and a chance to chat.**

**Sunday 10th December**

**3pm**

**Admission free**

## USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish Councillors	Martin Pearcy	890818
	Ben Bywater	07909 545303
	Stephen Cook	860504
	Caroline Eardley	890139
	John Hobson	07715 558110
	Penny Wait	860191
Parish Clerk	Lynn Thornton	545880
	clerk@coaleypc.org.uk	
Stroud District Councillor	Martin Pearcy	890818
	cllr.martin.pearcy@stroud.gov.uk	
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	860665
		07767 660206
	coaleysnowwarden@gmail.com	
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)		0345 8638323
	communitywellbeing.stroud@nhs.net	