

Coaley Parish NEWSLETTER

Issue no 134
February / March 2024



New Headteacher
Easter Events Produce Show Classes

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
1st Feb	Knitting Group	2.30pm	7 The Close
6th Feb	Friendship Club	2.30 pm	Hall
12th Feb	Whist	2.00pm	Jubilee Room
21st Feb	Lent Lunch	12.30pm	Hall
28th Feb	Lent Lunch	12.30pm	Hall
5th Mar	Friendship Club	2.30pm	Hall
6th Mar	Lent Lunch	12.30pm	Hall
7th Mar	Knitting Group	2.30pm	tba
11th Mar	Whist	2.00pm	Jubilee Room
13th Mar	Lent Lunch	12.30pm	Hall
17th Mar	Community Tabletop Sale	11am-3pm	Hall
20th Mar	Lent Lunch	12.30pm	Hall
29th Mar	Good Friday Famine Lunch	Noon	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 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 Saturday 16th March 2024.

email: newsletter@coaleypc.org.uk
web: www.coaleypc.org.uk
facebook: [coaleyparishcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/coaleypc)
This issue edited by Stephen Cook.

Cover picture: A frosty perspective by Susy Keating

NEW HEAD AT COALEY SCHOOL

I would like to begin by introducing myself as the new Headteacher of Coaley C of E Primary Academy. It was delightful to visit the school before Christmas and join some of the special celebrations including the Christingle Service in St Bartholomew's Church. It was great to meet many of the wider community here too. The Christmas production 'A Magical Christmas Jigsaw' was also a huge success and enjoyed by many. A huge thank you to the wider school community, including many villagers, for the time and effort they put in to planning these special opportunities to help our children flourish. Whether it was sewing costumes or setting up the music, the community offer was phenomenal and greatly appreciated by all of the children and staff at Coaley. Of course, we can't forget to thank our incredible children who demonstrated the highest level of perseverance and outstanding talent in the performance. Another highlight for the school community during December was singing at Coaley Christmas Light switch on at the village hall, all adding to the magic of the festive period.

Despite the cold start to the New Year, the children have returned to school full of curiosity and excitement for learning. We started the term with a wonderful worship in St Bartholomew's Church, led by Reverend Graham, to launch our value of 'forgiveness'. The children are fully immersed in their new topics and there is a real buzz around school. The children have wrapped up warm and



Jen Thomas, the new headteacher at Coaley School

faced the chill during their outdoor Forest School lessons this term; they are always keen to share the skills they have developed with me during these sessions.

It has been wonderful to see how the school's vision, 'As a family, we flourish', is lived out in all areas of school life. The whole community have been so welcoming and have demonstrated what a warm, caring family it is here and I feel very proud to be part of it.

Miss Jen Thomas

Coaley WI events 2024

Jan 17 th	Social evening	A games evening with a Beetle drive, drinks, cheese and nibbles.
Feb 21st	The Orkney isles	Life as a Remote and Rural GP on Hoy in the Orkney islands. Wild birds and wild seas. Competition of the best scenic photo. (can be a print or a photo on a phone or tablet.
Mar 20 th	A day in the life of a Vet	Vet Ella will be telling us all about the goings on in her veterinary practice
April 17th	Stroud Brewery	We welcome Stroud Brewery to tell us all about the business and get the chance to try some samples
April 27th	Bluebell walk	<i>Hopefully the bluebells will be in full bloom for our walk through the woods followed by a cuppa and cake in the garden.</i>
May 5 & 6	Plant swap	<i>The WI café will be open in the village hall as part of Plant swap</i>
May 15th	Judging flowers	Fancy entering a flower arrangement into the produce show? We find out what to consider and what works well. Also bring along ideas for decorating a sheep for the sheep trail in September – a pun name and a design for the sheep
Jun 19th	Garden visit	The long daylight hours allow us to get out and visit a local garden
June 29 th	Coaleyfest	<i>With WI cafe</i>
Jul 17th	Sheep hunt designs	With our designs set, we will be decorating the WI sheep for the local sheep trail.
Aug	No meeting	
Sep 7th	Produce show	<i>The WI café opens again for the annual produce show.</i>
Sep 18th	Reflexology	The origins of Reflexology, what it is, the benefits. Reflexology and wellbeing. Competition -my favourite shoes. Tell us about your favourite shoes, they don't need to be yours or even real.
Oct 16th	Charlies charity	Charlies charity aim to be there for anyone affected by Cancer with free holistic therapies and support for them and their families.
Nov 20th	AGM	Annual reports and committee elections. Then its game time with our very own generation game
Dec 11th	Christmas party	Time to relax and enjoy the Christmas celebrations.

Coaley WI meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the village hall. Free entry for members and £4.00 for visitors (pay on the door).

WI

Happy New year to you. Coaley WI celebrated the Christmas season with a 3 course meal, quiz and Secret Santa at the Tudor arms in Slimbridge. Its always nice to have time to chat and meet friends and partners who support our activities. Through our fundraising this year we were able to donate £250 each to GL11 community hub and Stroud women's refuge . As we move into 2024 we have now got a card reader and online banking which will improve the ease of payments through the account. It sounds easy and has only taken up one sentence but my goodness our Treasurer has had to work hard to achieve this and we are very grateful.

If you are new to the village, the WI has compiled a 'Welcome to Coaley' leaflet with useful information and contact details such as doctors, dentist, groups and activities. We are often aware of new people moving into the village but, if we have missed you and you would like a copy, get in touch via email or on facebook.

Our programme of events is attached and we hope you will be able to join us at some or more of these events.

June Dunlop
Secretary
Coaley WI

coaleywi@hotmail.com
facebook: coaleywi

PLANT SWAP

The annual Coaley Plant Swap will be taking place during the bank holiday weekend of 5th and 6th May 24. The event is arranged to help people improve their gardens so save the date in your calendar.

As the weather improves and you begin to tidy the garden, save some biennial seedlings such as foxgloves, aquilegia and hollyhocks, so dig them up and pot them on in readiness. Save a few plants you divide and put a few extra seeds in when sowing your annuals and vegetables. In that way you will have plenty of plants to swap for some new ones to enliven your summer garden.

During the swap weekend you will get some new plants, have lots of fun meeting people around the village and enjoy the WI tea and cakes in the village hall.

If you want any further information about the Plant Swap go to:
www.coaleyproduce.org.uk

SHOP



Thank you to all our volunteers!
After all the busyness of the lead up to

Christmas the shop committee decided that it was important to say a big thank you to all our loyal and hard-working volunteers. Without them the shop would not be able to function and the village would lose a valuable and popular facility.

There was a real party atmosphere in the shop on the 4th January with the attraction of home-made savouries, wine and soft drinks. There was much friendly chat and a fun quiz to test everybody's knowledge of the local area and the background to the shop. The highlight was matching the baby photos to the shop committee member. Not an easy task as we have all changed a little bit!

Veganuary

Now that we are out of the Christmas season and all the decorations are packed away we may be thinking of pulling our belts in a bit. Maybe you could try giving up meat for a month. We have a range of fresh, chilled and frozen vegetarian and vegan products to tempt you, including fresh vegetables, plant based milk and nut roasts.

It's in the name

Coaley Community Shop is an important hub in the village offering a comfortable, informal venue for local groups to meet on a regular or ad hoc basis. We can provide hot or cold drinks and a variety of home baked cakes from Lillie B's Patisserie.

The local stroke group meets regularly at the shop every fortnight with

between six and ten people enjoying the shop's hospitality to share experience and occasional craft activities. On an ad hoc basis we have increasingly frequent visits from cyclist groups who stop for much needed refreshment.

If you know of any groups who might enjoy the hospitality we can offer just ask in the shop next time you are passing.

Follow us on Facebook

To keep up to date with our latest offers why not follow us on Facebook – facebook.com/coaleycommunityshop or visit our website www.coaleycommunityshop.org

CHANGING SEASONS

Snap 'em up! Don't forget to keep your cameras handy to take seasonal shots of Coaley and the surrounding area for the next Coaley Calendar. They need to be in landscape format.

The deadline for photographic entries will be at the end of July. The Produce Show Committee would like to print the calendars a little earlier this year. Check the website for how to enter your photographs. www.coaleyproduceshow.org.uk

UPDATE FROM CRAG

Things have seemed a bit quiet regarding plans for a new look Rec. but there has been a lot going on behind



COMMUNITY TABLETOP SALE

Sunday 17th March 11-15.00

Coaley Village Hall

Crafts, Cakes, Refreshments, Pre-loved
Clothes, Toys, Coaley School Uniform,
jumble and more...

LIMITED SPACES please
contact Susy Keating at
phoebuscar@gmail.com or
via Facebook Messenger
to secure your spot

**£1 entry
kids go free**

£10 a table



the scenes!

We have been developing a design brief to ensure what happens on the Rec. is consistent with what villagers have said they want and that things are done in the right order. The design brief was approved by the Parish council at their last meeting in January 2024.

The next stage is to take a more detailed design concept to the February Parish Council meeting, after which we will be asking for feedback from village organisations and villagers with an interest in the rec. We plan to consult face to face and on-line so please look out for posters and notices in the Coaley Facebook page with details of when and where these consultations will take place.

We have been working with Abby Birkbeck to create a Coaley Recreation Ground logo for use by the group. This incorporates designs created by the children at the school and is about to be finalised. We will be sharing this in due course. Thanks to Abby for her hard work and time she has given to make this possible.

The consultations to date have indicated that villagers would like more seating on the Rec. for socialising and picnicking. We have received donations from the Produce Show and W.I. to help with this and plan to use this initial funding to provide a picnic table and other seating in the Spring ready for the good weather.

To make the Rec. a really social space

more tables and seating are needed so we are asking villagers to donate to a "FUND A SEAT TO MEET" project. Any amount would be gratefully received but if you would like to put a name to a bench or picnic table please contact CRAG via email (see below) for suggested donations for different levels of acknowledgement.

Having reached this stage, in order to drive this exciting project forward we really need some more volunteers to lend a hand to improve the Rec.

- Could you help by being our communications officer? Writing our news articles, managing our Facebook account and being all things communications for us?

- Is anyone able to help with local fundraising for us?

- Help plan and run events, even if it was just to be another pair of hands?

- Support our bid writers in submitting grant applications

- Join our design time in the exciting development of the Rec.

If so please contact Caroline Eardley or the CRAG team by email coaleyrecreationgroup@gmail.com

**SLIMBRIDGE SCOUT
GROUP**

The work on the new hut (a.k.a. the old

St Bartholomew's Church, Coaley

Soup Lunches through

Lent in the Village Hall

12.30pm

Wednesday

21st, 28th February

6th, 13th, 20th March

Good Friday Famine Lunch

29th March at 12noon

Proceeds for the work of

Coaley Church.

All Welcome

Coaley Shop) down at the WWT is nearly complete and the transformation is looking superb. Our grateful thanks to all those volunteers who have put in many hours of hard work to get it finished. We will be looking to move in shortly and having the ability to increase the amount and variety of activities we are able to offer young people from the area. The number of young people attending the Group has increased considerably and we are looking for adult helpers to assist with the running of the weekly sessions – you do not have to be there every week – we will be flexible to fit in with other commitments. A DBS check will be required, and some Online Training will need to be completed. If you think you can help, or would like a chat about what volunteering with Slimbridge Scout Group involves, please contact Adrian Mather: 07805 078391 gsl@slimbridgescoutgroup.org

PRODUCE SHOW



Home of the Coaley Shop, it's the arts and crafts and photography classes for this year's Produce Show.

Arts and Crafts

Knitted/crochet fruit or vegetables x3.
 Knitted/crochet snood.
 Door draught excluder, any medium.
 Macramé plant pot holder.
 Halloween Decoration.
 Something new from something old.
 Autumn – mixed media, predominantly paint.
 A painting of a house on wood.
 Wild flower, any medium.
 A card for a new baby (any medium except photography).

Photography

Before and after - 2 photos on A4 sheet
 Farm animals
 Community
 Ruined

GARDEN CUP 2024

The Garden Cup Challenge is an annual competition organised by the Coaley Produce Show Committee. It is an inclusive and fun event which each year judges a different category of your garden and gardening skills. This year's competition will be titled "The Best Flowering Plant in my Garden". The judging will take place on a day to be confirmed in early to mid-June and more details of this will be given in the April edition of this Newsletter. This early notification is to give fair warning so that any tender loving care, planting, pruning etc that is needed in winter or early spring can be undertaken.

As implied by the title you can enter any flowering plant. However, it is likely that the judges will take into account the gardening input that was required

to achieve the final result. Hence a completely natural or wild plant, however beautiful, may suffer in this category of scoring.

NURTURE NATURE

The BTO (British Trust for Ornithology) has reported that there have been changes to migrant bird patterns – due to habitat loss and climate irregularities. So far this year there appear to be fewer winter migrants such as fieldfares, redwings, bramblings in the area. Conversely, there appears to be more migrational movement of blackbirds. Large numbers of waxwings, not a species that normally migrates to the UK, have been seen this year because of food shortages on the continent. They love rosehips, such as those on rosa Fellenberg. Rodborough Common is a local hotspot. We haven't been alerted to local starling murmurations so far this winter.

Some folk have reported bumble bee activity even on cold days. There are such hardy bee species with yellow rears that visit nectar bearing flowering shrubs such as winter flowering honeysuckle, abelia and mahonia. Often bumble bees will fly into sheds, summerhouses etc when doors are open, and thereby they get trapped and die when such outbuildings are shut up, so please check for bumblebees first.

Seabirds especially are still suffering from avian 'flu, and our birds of gardens, fields and woods can be

affected. So please keep feeders clean, water in bird baths changed daily, and if you haven't cleaned out and checked bird boxes for damage and repair, please try to do so by the end of the month.

If you know hedgehogs are hibernating in your garden please ensure they are safe from domestic pets. We had a terrier particularly interested in our hedgehog boxes so we had to fence them off with chicken wire, cutting a 15mm x 15mm (6" x 6") ground level opening for the sow and hoglets to use when born.

Some topical info – the Asiatic Black Bear, Yampil, rescued from the bombed zoo in Ukraine where most of the animals were killed by Russian bombing, has now arrived at the Five Sisters Zoo in West Lothian to continue his recovery. At the other end of the scale do try to watch two clips on the internet – 'Tidy Mouse in Shed' and 'Man Builds Entire Village For Mouse He Saw In His Sheffield Garden'. Children will be absorbed by these clips. We wondered how walnut halves appeared in unexpected locations around the garden!
Happy New Conservation Year
Otis Tarda

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 clerk@coaleypc.org.uk	545880
Stroud District Councillor	Martin Pearcy cllr.martin.pearcy@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