

Coaley Parish NEWSLETTER

Issue no 135

April / May 2024



CRAG Consultation
Does Coaley want a
Community Speed Watch Group?

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
1st April	Easter Egg Hunt	10.30am	Church
4th April	Knitting	2.30pm	Lapley View
8th April	Whist	2.00pm	Jubilee Room
27th April	Coaley Rocks	evening	Hall
2nd May	Knitting	2.30pm	tba
5th & 6th May	Plant Swap	10am-4pm	Start at Hall
7th May	Friendship group	2.30pm	Hall
13th Mar	Whist	2.00pm	Jubilee Room
15th June	Garden Cup judging	2pm	
15th June	Great Big Coaley Quiz	7.30pm	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 Thursday 16th May 2024.

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: The now traditional spring lamb.

CRAG UPDATE

The CRAG committee hosted a public consultation meeting on Saturday, March 23rd, at the village hall, inviting all residents to preview the new design for the recreation ground. Parish councillor Caroline Eardley presented the comprehensive design, concept plan, and community research findings that influenced the new design.

Additionally, the committee outlined the priorities for the regeneration project. Attendees were encouraged to share their personal opinions and provide feedback on the proposed design.

The consultation process will continue throughout April, with 'pop-up' sessions planned at the community shop.

Residents will have the opportunity to review all designs and information, with committee members available to address any queries. Details of these sessions will be posted on the CRAG Facebook group and displayed on the shop noticeboard. We urge all residents to participate and share their input. All feedback received will be thoroughly reviewed and considered by the committee and designers.

Thanks to the generous support from our sponsors at the Parish Council, CADS, Coaley WI and the Produce Show we've already acquired three round picnic tables two of which have wheelchair and pushchair access. These will be installed on the Rec in due course.

Additionally, we're organising a 'Spring Clean' morning at the Rec on Sunday, June 2nd, at 10 am. We invite

residents to spare an hour to help spruce up the Rec for the summer season. Whether it's litter picking, pruning, or weeding, every contribution counts. Refreshments will be provided for all volunteers. Your assistance will be greatly appreciated!

We're excited to announce the launch of our website and Facebook page. Visit us to explore our ongoing projects, future events, and access all plans and designs presented during the consultation meetings. Please follow us on Facebook to stay updated on our initiatives and progress.

Web address: www.coaleyrec.co.uk
Facebook: @CRAGCoaley



COALEY C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

During the Spring Term, pupils at Coaley were immersed in an 'enrichment week'. During this week, children explored and celebrated diversity around the world. Each class explored the arts, worldviews and characteristics of three contrasting locations including Jamaica, Turkey and India. Children produced some outstanding learning and presented this in different forms which were displayed in a gallery in the school hall. Parents and visitors commented on the phenomenal artwork the children produced inspired by significant artists as well as the facts they had learnt in the process.



Another special feature of the week included the early stages of writing lyrics and creating a musical accompaniment for our new school song with the support of The Music Works. The children ensured that our school vision, 'As a family we flourish', and Christian values were at the core of the song. It really is a masterpiece and the children are very excited about completing the song next term. In addition to this, a large group of children will be visiting the recording

studio to produce and film it before sharing with the wider Coaley community at several special events later in this academic year.



Thank you for your continued support

Miss Thomas

THANK YOU

Isobel Farmer and Bob Clarke would like to thank all friends and acquaintances who popped in to our coffee morning in the Village Hall on Saturday. It was held to celebrate our 90th birthdays and to show our appreciation for the friendship and kindness shown to us and our families since we came to live in the village in the 1970s. We felt it was a truly great "get together", and appreciated your company.

And we mustn't overlook mentioning our pleasure at hearing the Coaley Church Bell Ringing Team, and for including a '90 calls' in their ringing in the morning.

We also thank the siblings and relations who contributed to "the do" and made it happen.



THE GREAT BIG COALEY QUIZ

With Fish & Chip
Supper

Saturday,
15th June

Coaley Village Hall
7.30pm

£15

per person

Ticket includes Fish
and Chip Supper

Teams of 6



Sponsored by our friends at
Sage Residential



For tickets and to provide details of dietary
requirements please contact:

COALEYREACTIONGROUP@GMAIL.COM

COALEY PANTOMIME

Although there was a delay due to COVID this year, the Coaley Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS) performances of Snow White were completed in January. This was achieved by all the members working hard with additional people brought in to support the existing team, so thanks to all involved. Specific mention of individual performances and support would take too long but everyone played their part, both on stage and off, in making the shows entertaining for all.

We have had fantastic feedback and hopefully everyone that came to see the performances enjoyed the show, which is produced by the community for the community. As promised the story was a battle of good versus evil and the audiences joined in by expressing their approval, or not, of the characters on stage. Audience participation is a big part of the CADS shows so thanks to all that joined in. Even the singing was on form!

CADS put the shows on to raise money for local charities. Originally, most of the funds raised went to help maintain the village hall. However, there are now some funds available to support local, worthwhile, causes. An example of this is the recent donation to the Dursley Tabernacle URC Community FoodHub which provides valuable food supplies to help local individuals and families ease the impact of the current cost-of-living crisis. So, if you are involved with a local group that needs a small amount of funding then please get in touch.

Our thoughts now turn to the pantomime later this year. Undoubtedly, we will be looking for help from the local community to put on the show and all help is welcome. So, if you enjoy being part of the community and want to get involved, you don't have to be on stage, then please get in touch.

Keri James
CADS Chairman
keriatcoaley@btinternet.com



COALEY VILLAGE PLAYGROUP PRESENTS

COALEY ROCKS

A Night of Soul, Funk and Motown Hits

INTRODUCING

Sat 27th
April



Coaley
Village
Hall

The Good Times

AND WELCOMING
BACK OUR OLD
FRIENDS

CRATES DISCO

TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON!

DOES COALEY WANT A COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH GROUP?

Speed surveys performed by Gloucestershire Highways at the request of Coaley Parish Council last year identified that post Covid there are more drivers traveling faster than the speed limit approaching the centre of the village. While traffic volumes have also increased since 2019 when the last survey was done.

The Parish council recently provided 30mph wheelie bin stickers for use along the main Street in the village and the take up of these has been good.

For much of the length of the village there is pavement only one side and in places this is narrow. There are greater numbers of residents walking their dogs along the pavements, prams, and more pedestrians using the them post Covid.

If we want to do more to encourage drivers to adhere to the 30mph speed limit in the village and potentially access funding for deterrent measures such the use of vehicle speed

monitoring equipment or flashing speed reminders parishes are asked to form a community speed watch group. This group would be registered on the national speedwatch community with the police granting access to training, guidance, liability insurance for the group and the crucial link with the police for enforcement. Any site along the road would be registered and assessed by the police as being suitable before speed monitoring could take place.

The Parish Council are appealing to any volunteers who are interested in forming a community speed watch in Coaley – there would be limited time involved as it is considered that only periodic speed monitoring is needed to help reduce the minority of drivers who excessively speed through parts of the village.

Results from community speedwatch groups from other counties show that they do have an impact especially in reducing the number of re-offending drivers with reoffending rates reduced from 20-25% to 6-7% of all drivers.

The council would like to hear from

Location	2023	2019	Change
West End			
Mean Speed	31.1mph	29.3mph	+6.1%
% vehicles > 15% (34.5mph)	25%	18%	+39%
85th percentile speed	36.3mph	35mph	+3.7%
Hamshill			
Mean Speed	31.7mph	28.4mph	+11.6%
% Vehicles > 15% (34.5mph)	30%	8%	+375%
85th Percentile Speed	36.8mph	32.5mph	+13.2%

anyone who is interested in finding out more about setting up a group and with sufficient support we will invite the Gloucestershire neighbourhood policing team staff to the village to explain more. To register your interest please send an email to: The Parish Council clerk at clerk@coaleypc.org.uk

2024 COALEY GARDENS' CUP COMPETITION

This year's Coaley Gardens' Challenge Competition will be judging 'The Best Flowering Plant in my Garden'. You don't need to nominate the plant until the day of judging. 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.

During the afternoon of Saturday 15th June (after 2pm) two independent judges will visit your garden to view each entry. If you cannot be at home then, with your permission, the plant can be judged in your absence.

Closing date for the competition is Friday 7th June.

Pick up an entry form from the Village Shop or get one from www.coaleyproduceshow.org.uk. Completed forms can be left at the shop or emailed to lapley.cottage@gmail.com.

The result will be announced at the Coaley Produce Show on Saturday 7th September 2024.

VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall is a valuable asset to the village. It is used by many village groups eg Lunch Club, Friendship Group, CADS for the Pantomime, Guides and Brownies as well as hired by Groups such as Nia and Pilates. Many villagers and others hire it for parties and other family functions.

The village hall can only function and develop with a Committee. The present Committee is urgently looking for new members. Think what a loss it would be if the hall had to close because there was no-one to run it.

As well as Officer roles - Chair, Secretary and Treasurer there are many jobs that can be done by Committee Members eg looking after Safety in the hall, checking fire extinguishers. There are opportunities to help further develop the improve the hall.

A comprehensive list of job descriptions has been drawn up. Details can be obtained by contacting the secretary.

Please think if you could offer your services to keep this valuable village asset going and developing.

Contact is the secretary Barbara Davis on 890679 or barbaradavis4119@gmail.com

SHOP

Coaley Community Shop is an important hub in the village offering a comfortable and 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.

We have always tried to offer a welcoming atmosphere and the number of new visitors coming into the shop bears that out. We are always doing our best to be even more inviting.

New - open coffee Mornings

From Thursday March 21st

You are invited to join us for free tea and coffee. It's an opportunity to have a natter with your neighbours and maybe meet new friends. If you're feeling lonely or a bit low this might be for you.

Coffee mornings will be on the third Thursday of every month. So why not put it in your diary and give it a try. You'll be made to feel welcome.

Community groups using their community shop

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.

Two local book groups also enjoy the café on a regular basis for their meetings.

If you represent a local group and would like to use our facilities please leave your details at the shop and we'll get back to you. You can also leave your details if you are interested in the groups mentioned above.

Nature lovers and fitness freaks

As the days get lighter and the weather improves (we hope! – see below) we are seeing a marked increase in the number of walkers and cyclists enjoying our hospitality. As well as warming hot drinks and refreshing cold ones the riders bars remain a firm favourite. If you are a member of a walking or cycling group please pass the word on what we have to offer. And a final note, if the weather refuses to improve please use our new customised boot remover if you are able to or use the mats. This will avoid trailing mud into the shop. Many thanks.

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

PLAYGROUP

Topics

We usually have a book of the week which we share with the children and have lots of fun activities based around the book. Some recent books have included, 10 little penguins, how to grow a dinosaur and what colour is love. We have also enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year and pancake day over the last few months as well as

Coaley Produce Show

Plant Trail Swap & Sale

5 & 6 May 2024

10am to 4pm

Swap a plant of similar size or buy a plant by donation in cash or by bank transfer.

Tables will be situated at Westend, The Street, Fox Meadow, Hamshill, Far Green, Silver Street & Trenley Road. Maps provided.



Delicious tea and cakes by Coaley WI at the Village Hall. Parking is available at the Coaley Village Hall. Bring your own bags. Funds raised will support the Show and local groups.

More information at: coaleyproduceshow.org.uk

September 2024 Playgroup Session Times

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

completing lots of fun experiments during science week.

WI

Fundraising

Thank you to everyone that attended the table top sale, it was a very successful event.

We have Coaleyrocks returning on 27th April so we hope to see lots of you there.

Availability

We are still very busy and encourage those in the village that would like to bring their child to Coaley playgroup to get in touch to add your child's name to the list as soon as possible.

September 2024

From September 2024 our opening times are changing, Please see above.

Getting in touch

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

Gmail: coaleyplaygroup@gmail.com
Telephone: 07434364850

Coaley WI started the year with a Social evening where we had drinks and nibbles and a beetle drive with a prize for the evenings winner. We also started our flower competition where members bring along a flower from the garden each month and our speaker chooses the top 3. Points are awarded and at the end of the year the person with the most points gets the trophy.

Our next talk was from our resident Dr Marion McDowell who explained how she applied for a post on the Orkneys after retiring and seeing an advert in the British medical Journal. The population of 22,000 includes about 2000 living on the smaller islands and the rest on mainland. The health service has 15 GP's for 22,000 which could be considered expensive.

The islands are served by small planes, often cancelled in bad weather and ferries. Most of the residents work on farms or in fishing. The population is elderly and generally not very healthy. Dr McDowell works in 3 or 4 week blocks on a rota basis and is on call 24 hrs a day. She has a 4 wheel drive packed with medical equipment

and there is an ambulance staffed by volunteers if needed. She takes 7 surgeries per week and complex medical cases may go by helicopter to Aberdeen or Glasgow. The weather can be beautiful but it is often windy and cold and the winter nights are long but are compensated by long hours of daylight in summer.

The annual membership is renewed in April and with the success of our fundraising, we are able to reduce the subscription fee to £37.00 (normal cost is £48.00). The fee includes free entry to our monthly meeting, a regular Gloucestershire newsletter and the WI Life magazine. If you think you may like to join us, why not come along and see what you think.

NURTURE NATURE

Summer Visitors

House Martins: These lovely migrant birds fly from Africa to nest in the British Isles, many in our area. They spend a long time making their mud nests under the eaves of houses. Please be tolerant of their building habits. The birds do not cause too much mess and they become distressed if all their hard work is destroyed. If house martins cannot raise their broods, yet another species will be endangered.

Swallows: These beautiful birds always return to their old nest sites, so please ensure access to them. If, for reasons of security, access has to be shut, swallows will fly through small openings in order to reach their

traditional nesting sites.

Swifts: Their nesting sites, some of which are centuries old, are fast disappearing. They require an access tunnel of at least 18" long with a small entrance hole; please don't block them off. Swifts are believed to spend at much as nine months to a year on the wing, and they are known to nap whilst flying.

Swift sightings can be reported to Bradford-on-Avon Swift Group at climatechampions@gmail.com, or www.swift-conservation.org.

NOTE: These birds are, of course, protected species – it is an offence to disturb or destroy their nest sites and environments. Cuckoos – should a reader wish to track cuckoo migrations there are websites which would give up-to-date progress of incoming birds, such as the BTO one. Do please post any cuckoo sightings and hearings on your local facebook page.

Otis Tarda

Festival Players International

The UK's premier all male Shakespeare Touring Company

present

THE TEMPEST

at Woodchester Mansion

Thursday 22 August 2024 at 6.30pm

Tickets: £16.00

Online booking available at www.tickettailor.com/events/thefestivalplayers
For enquiries call Festival Players on tel: 07880 934805. Outdoor performance, gates open from 5.30pm for picnics

LONGFIELD HOSPICE

In case you didn't know, Longfield is a local hospice covering Gloucestershire with a range of free services. It has been supporting adults with a life limiting condition, their family and loved ones for over 35 years. If you think you could benefit from our help and care, why not visit longfield.org.uk to find out more?

Did you know Longfield is a charity and that 85% of our funding comes from donations? So, if you would like to get involved and help us be please contact the fundraising team to find out more on 01453 886868.

Walk for Longfield 2024 – Celebrate the summer solstice by walking 5k or 10k on Friday 21st June 5.30pm -9pm at Minchinhampton. Sign up at www.longfield.org.uk/walk-for-longfield

Run the Rainbow 2024 – enjoy our summer colourful favourite on Saturday 29th June 2024 at Frampton Court. Sign up at www.longfield.org.uk/run-the-rainbow

WHEELY BIN 30MPH SPEED LIMIT SIGNS

There are a few stickers left in the shop, so if you'd like one for your other bin please take one.



Slimbridge Scout Group – Hut Update. (the Old Coaley Shop) We are in, at last! and using the new hut on a weekly basis, for Beavers, Cubs & Scouts. We are now able to offer a wider programme of activities to the Young People and the space we have available both indoors and outdoors is fantastic.

We do need your help in finding some Adults who are willing to volunteer as part of the Leader Team. Do YOU know someone who could possibly give a couple of evenings a month and the occasional day or so on a weekend to help our Beaver Colony, Cub Pack and Scout Troop grow mentally, physically and numerically.

We have a superb new facility at WWT, of our own, which gives a great opportunity to put the OUT into ScOUTing and we are looking for Adults to help us develop this with the Young People.

If you or someone you know would like to be part of this exciting new chapter in Slimbridge Scout Group please can YOU or THEY get in touch for a "no commitment" informal chat:

Adrian Mather (m) 07805 078391 (e) gsl@slimbridgescoutgroup.org

**St Bartholomew's Church
Coaley**

Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Monday Morning

1st April 10.30am

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

Refreshments

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)		0345 8638323 communitywellbeing.stroud@nhs.net