

# Coaley Parish

# NEWSLETTER



Issue no 141  
April / May 2025

Plant Swap  
World Book Day

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
1st April	Friendship	2.30pm	Hall
3rd April	Knitting Bungalow(tbc)	2.30pm	Lapley
14th April	NO WHIST		
1st May	Knitting	2.30pm	tbc
4th/5th May	Plant Swap	10am-4pm	Through village
10th May	Coaley Rocks	7pm	Hall
7th June	Bell ringing competition	11.15am - 4.45pm	Church
27th June	Gardens' Cup entries closing date		
6th July	Gardens' Cup Judging	2pm onwards	

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 Friday 16th May 2025.**

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

*Cover picture: Daffodils at Hamshill by Mike Davis*

## PLANT SWAP

Coaley Village Plant Swap takes place on 4th & 5th May 2025 10am - 4pm

The annual plant swap is organised to help people improve their gardens and raise much needed funds for village causes. 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 to come along with your surplus plants in individual containers with the name written on it in a marker pen.

You can bring any variety of plants – fruit or vegetable, annual, perennial, indoor or pond plant - whatever you have. If you don't have any plants to

swap you can pay by cash or bank transfer.

Plant stalls will be situated throughout Coaley village at Westend, The Street, Fox Meadow, Hamshill, Far Green, Silver Street and Trenley Road. This year we have an additional stall at Westend on the route.

Bring your own bags for plants and maps will be provided. You can take a break from the walk around the village and enjoy the Coaley WI delicious tea and cakes on both days 10.30 - 4.00pm at the village hall. Car parking is also available at the village hall.

If you want any more information about the Coaley Produce Show go to: [coaleyproduceshow.org.uk](http://coaleyproduceshow.org.uk)



## SCHOOL

It has been yet another exciting and busy term here at Coaley C of E Primary Academy. This term, each of our three houses (Purple, Green and Orange House) have been working collectively to 'make a difference in the community'. We have been exploring social justice and responsibility and helping children understand how important it is to make a difference and have a positive impact on our world. Each house has chosen something different and will be working hard over the rest of this term to make their difference. Orange house are raising funds through a 'fun run' and cake sale to support CRAG and the development of the recreational area in the village. Green house are getting crafty and exploring how they can spread a smile within the community. While Purple house are trying to keep the village clean and safe by encouraging others to pick up their litter and dog foul.

We have been reflecting on this special time of year in the Christian calendar and exploring the journey of Lent. Worship Leaders delivered a wonderful message about Lent and inspired us to think about our own self discipline and what we might want to give up or take up during this time. Reverend Graham shared the significance of Ash Wednesday with the whole school and some of the children enjoyed experiencing the drawing of the ash cross on their forehead.

It was lovely to welcome Councillor Gill Thomas into Coaley, dressed as a Womble to share a reading book with

the children. As well as this, Gill shared the fundraising challenge she is embarking on this year to raise money to buy enough litter pickers for every school in the Stroud District and educate our children on litter awareness to promote greater knowledge and encourage micro volunteering opportunities within the community.

World Book Day is always a highlight for children in the school calendar and this year was no different. Many of the children dressed as their favourite book character to add to the magic of reading. It was wonderful to see that so many children had participated in the 'design a mask' competition and I must say that the entries were just phenomenal. The level of creativity and innovation blew us away and I was thankful that the children voted for their winner as I couldn't possibly have judged them!





*Some of the children's costumes for World Book Day and Councillor Gill Thomas (top right) reads to the children.*



# SHOP

## Easter is coming

Easter is just around the corner. We will be stocking a wide range of Easter specialities including Hobbs House hot cross buns and Easter biscuits. We will also be stocking a range of Easter eggs and Cadbury's cream eggs. What's not to like? If you want to send Easter greetings to friends and family we'll have a range of Easter cards..

## Coffee mornings

Our regular coffee mornings held on the third Thursday of every month continue to be very successful. They are a great opportunity to meet up with friends in the village. You can take advantage of complimentary refreshments and home baked cakes all served by our friendly and helpful volunteers.

## Disruptions

We've been dealing with quite a lot of disruption over the last few weeks. Papers are frequently delivered to us late. We have had interruptions to the internet which means that we can't use the card machine. There has been building work around the shop which, in the long run, will improve facilities and

the environment for the village, but in the short run makes access difficult.

All this is outside our control but we recognise that it can be frustrating for our customers (and our volunteers!). We can only apologise and thank you for your patience.

## Your suggestions

If there is anything that you can't find in the shop that you think we should stock do ask one of our volunteers. Or you can use our suggestions box to request items we make any suggestions for improvements in the shop. We check the suggestions box at every meeting of the committee.

## Thanks

The new shop has become a real feature for the village community and the local environment. So many people were involved were involved in making it a success, not least all those who contributed financially. As a sign of our gratitude we have erected a plaque in the shop to highlight their generosity. Please take a moment to look at it and remember the effort that went in.





### **Fancy a festive cider?**

New in and proving very popular is Hawkstone freshly pressed cider. Using the fresh pressed juice from apples picked locally, the Hawkstone master cider makers ferment with champagne yeast and mature the cider for up to 6 months, before cold-filtering to create a 5% medium dry cider that's full of flavour and character

### **Contact us**

<https://www.coaleycommunityshop.org/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/coaleycommunityshop>

## **BELL RINGING STRIKING COMPETITION**

Coaley is privileged to be asked to host the National Call Change Competition on 7th June.

The bell ringing will be different to that normally heard in the village in that the ringing will be in the "Devon Style". This is where the bells are rung very much quicker than our norm.

Entry to the competition is limited to 16 teams and there will be ringing from 11:15 am until 4:45 pm. The ringing will not be continuous as there will be breaks whilst teams change over and there will be a break for lunch.

The expectation is that the village will be busy as each team will comprise six members, there are likely to be supporters and there will be people wanting to listen. Hence parking could be an issue. To minimise this, we are asking attendees to share transport.

We are also asking villagers to offer help if they are prepared to share their drives for one or more vehicles. If you can help in this regard, please contact Sarah or Terry (details below).

The Church is organising refreshments in the Church and in the Village Hall and we are expecting that the shop and the Old Fox will see increased business. Money raised will be donated to the Church.

If you would like to be involved in any way on the day, as well as offering car parking facilities, then please get in touch with Sarah ([coaleystrikingcompetition@gmail.com](mailto:coaleystrikingcompetition@gmail.com)) or Terry ([tcchivers@gmail.com](mailto:tcchivers@gmail.com)).

Thank you.

To read about the competition see <https://nccc.cccbr.org.uk/>

## PLAYGROUP

This term we have been learning about different occupations and have been very lucky to have some visits from parents and family members to talk to us about their jobs. This has included a vet, a police officer, a PE teacher, an optician and a nurse. Alongside occupations some other topics have included world book day, pancake day, Holi festival, recycling day and science week.

### **Fundraising**

Our quiz at the fox was very successful, thank you to all of those that attended. We are having a little easter egg hunt for the playgroup and school families in April and coaleyrocks is returning in May!

### **Community support**

We are hoping to make some improvements to our outdoor area and are in need of some paint, any colour. If you have any left over paint taking up space in the garage please keep us in mind.

### **Availability**

We currently have a waiting list until September 2027. If you would like to add your child's name to the list then please email us.

### **Getting in touch**

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

Email: [coaleyplaygroup@gmail.com](mailto:coaleyplaygroup@gmail.com)

Telephone: 07434364850

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

## COALEY PARISH COUNCIL PRECEPT 2025/26

You may have noticed that the Coaley Parish precept which forms part of the Council Tax charge for Stroud District Residents has gone up quite a bit after many years of small rises. This is because the Parish Council continue to financially support the vision and the ongoing fantastic work of the Coaley Recreation Action Group 'CRAG'. We do so by paying for their running costs, and the council provided a £5,000 grant for the construction of the accessible path out of our retained reserves, in order that CRAG could proceed quickly within the time period set for receipt of another grant, otherwise there was a risk this funding would be lost.

The council wish to continue to provide further grant funding to CRAG to support their plans and help in their match funding grant applications in the coming year.

Many of other costs have increased by more than inflation in recent years such as insurance, grounds maintenance. The cost of employing our long serving clerk, whose rate is set by Stroud District Council has also increased and is increasing again partly due to last autumns budget changes.

However, Coaley residents still enjoy a relatively low precept rate compared to a number of our neighbours, and we would aim to reduce this once the Recreation ground improvements are complete.

**APRIL  
2025**

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**UPCOMING  
EVENTS @  
THE OLD FOX**

**MON 7  
APRIL**

**CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT**

COTSWOLD CATS & DOGS ARE BACK FOR ANOTHER BRILLIANT QUIZ NIGHT! 7PM START, CHEESESBOARDS AVAILABLE BY PRE ORDER, BOOK IN NOW!

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**FRI 18  
APRIL**

**FESTIVAL OF FISH**

IT'S FISH FRIDAY! LET US BRING THE OCEAN TO YOU. MARKET FRESH FISH, SERVED BOTH LUNCH & DINNER.

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**SUN 20  
APRIL**

**EASTER SUNDAY LIVE MUSIC**

JOIN US FOR A FAMOUS OLD FOX ROAST FOLLOWED BY LIVE MUSIC FROM STEVE FERBRACHE FROM 5:30PM

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**MON 28  
APRIL**

**CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT**

RAISING MONEY FOR SOUTHMEAD HOSPITAL! 7PM START, CHEESEBOARDSS AVAILABLE TO PRE ORDER!

## ABOUT COALEYROCKS

For the uninitiated, CoaleyRocks is an exciting annual music night that raises funds for Coaley Village Playgroup. Join us on Saturday, 10th May at the Village Hall for an unforgettable evening of live music, great food, and lots of fun!

We're thrilled to welcome Reminiscence, who made their Coaley debut last year at CoaleyFest, and the Bohemian Bar Thieves, returning for their third time to play an energetic selection of rock hits from the 90s and 2000s. Whether you love to dance or just enjoy live music, there's something for everyone.

CoaleyRocks is all about creating a lively, pub-style atmosphere, so we'll have a bar serving your favourite drinks, plus a raffle with some great prizes. Crates Disco will also be lighting up the dancefloor, spinning 90s and 00s tracks to keep you moving all night long.

If you're a fan of delicious food, Mama's Woodfired Pizza will be parked outside the Village Hall, serving up fresh, mouth-watering pizzas. Whether you're attending the event or just passing by, feel free to grab a takeaway and enjoy.

Don't forget to come dressed in your best 90s/00s outfit—we'll be awarding prizes for the most creative looks, so get ready to have fun with your costume!

Tickets are available now at the Coaley

Village Shop or online at [Eventbrite.co.uk](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) (just search for CoaleyRocks 90s/00s). Tickets are £10 in advance or £12 on the door.

For any questions, please contact Susy Keating or Coaley Playgroup.

We can't wait to see you there for the best CoaleyRocks yet!

## COALEY GARDENS' CUP COMPETITION

This year's Coaley Gardens' Challenge Competition will be:

### 'The Edible Garden'

Judges will be taking into account the amount of work that was required to achieve the final results.

During the afternoon of Sunday 6th July (after 2pm) two independent judges will visit your garden to view your entry. If you cannot be at home then, with your permission, the area can be judged in your absence.

**Closing date for the competition entries is Friday 27th June.**

Pick up an entry form from the Village Shop or get one from [www.coaleyproduceshow.org.uk](http://www.coaleyproduceshow.org.uk). Completed forms can be left at the shop or emailed to [david.j.harvey@hotmail.com](mailto:david.j.harvey@hotmail.com)

The result will be announced at the Coaley Produce Show on Saturday 6th September 2025.

COALEY VILLAGE PLAYGROUP PRESENTS

# COALEY ROCKS

## 90'S / 00'S

COALEY VILLAGE HALL SAT 10TH MAY 2025

TWO BANDS \* DISCO \* WOODFIRED PIZZA  
BAR FROM 19.00 \* MUSIC FROM 19.30



EARLYBIRD TICKETS £10 (£12 ON THE DOOR)  
FROM COALEY VILLAGE SHOP OR SEARCH  
COALEYROCKS AT [WWW.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK](http://WWW.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK)

## WI

We start by saying a big thank you to Suzie Compton who stands down as President having been in post for 5 years. Suzie has seen us through many changes including zoom meetings, Covid and the many changing restrictions, our 80th Birthday. Her networking skills have also involved us in many activities in the village such as the Fete, Coaleyfest, Plant swap, Produce show. sheep hunt and many more. We are grateful for her hardwork and determination. Our new President is Liz McLoughlin. Suzie remains on the committee and will support Liz in her new role.

We have heard from some interesting speakers already.

We had a talk from Cotswold herbs who organise many activities including herb walks. Laura explained how she collects, dries and uses herbs for many purposes such as teas, tinctures and skin care. She focussed on spring and summer herbs as we move into these seasons and we learnt about the benefits and uses for nettles, cleavers, borage and rose. We were able to buy skin care kits to make at home and were able to sample some herbal teas.

Kirsty visited from Longfield hospice and started by busting some of the myths around Longfield before explaining what work is done at this great facility. Longfield support people with any life limiting condition such as Cancer, Alzheimer's, Parkinsons. They

are non residential and it costs 4.7 million per year to run, 15% is NHS funding and 85% comes from the community including the 21 charity shops . Many activities take place at the centre and are known to be beneficial but other courses have come about through an identified local need (a 'cooking/shopping for one course came about when customers claimed they were in need of advice).

The work and support is not limited to the venue, last year 10 thousand hours of clinical care were provided in the home. Also last year, volunteers provided 48,819 hours of their time.

Our next talk is from an explorer who has visited Antarctica and Scotts basecamp.

New membership year in April and Subs for 2025 will be £37. We are able to subsidise ours due to fundraising throughout the year. (The National WI Board has set the subscription at £51.00 which is a £3 increase from last year)

Visitors always welcome. Entry fee includes a glass of wine or juice on arrival, an evening's activity/talk and tea and biscuits at the interval all for £4. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the village hall.

June Dunlop  
Secretary

coaleywi@hotmail.com  
farebook: coaleywi

## 2025 WI PROGRAMME

### April 16th Night Angels

Night Angels volunteers "look after women, take them home, do first aid and keep them safe". They also liaise with businesses to provide a safe & secure place for women to go if they feel they are under threat in anyway.

### May 4th & 5th Plant swap

The WI café will be open for drinks and cakes for visitors to the plant swap

### May 21st My Life on the Severn

An illustrated talk by Chris Witts based on his working life on the River Severn during the 1960's and 1990's

### June 18th Everhot 6.30pm

A visit to Everhot with a walk in the grounds where much conservation work is in progress.

### June 28th Village fete

### July 16th Purton Hulks

Maritime historian & author Paul Barnett shares his knowledge of the Purton Hulks, a maritime time capsule containing 86 vessels.  
Competition – your favourite river scene photo

### August No meeting

### September 6th Produce show

The WI café will be open

### September 17th Craft evening

We will be bringing a range of materials and ideas for crafts to make.

### October 15th Woodfurnal nursery

Buzz Busby runs Woodfurnal cottage nursery and focus at this time of year is on autumn and winter planters.

### November 19th AGM and Saxon barn

Used as a venue for events including pop up markets, find out about this historic building on our doorstep.

### December 10th

Celebrate the festive season with a Christmas meal.2025

## THE FRIENDSHIP GROUP

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

Our meetings have suffered from "natural causes" as we call it - meaning members have moved away to be nearer family, or passed away, or claimed by illness.

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

Isobel Farmer (890556)  
Pat Grimwood (890689)

## PANTO 2024

Once upon a time, in a land far away... well; not that far away and it was only just before Christmas, though it does seem like a long time ago now!

The latest offering from Coaley Amateur Dramatics Society, (celebrating their 25th anniversary) gave us Alice in Pantoland, by Dawn Cairns, where audiences were whisked off down the rabbit hole to meet many of Alice's Wonderland friends. As people entered the hall, they really had the sense of having been transported, as the whole room had been decorated with references to the Wonderland theme. We even had a wall covered in clocks, whirring around crazily, leaving us all wondering what magic was involved, a skillful design by the White Rabbit, played marvellously by Paul Freeman.

Alice (confidently played by Rosa Taylor and a perfect casting for the character) and her friend Susie (an equally confident and joyous performance by newcomer Lydia

Tutton) began their journey with a hilariously-imagined "shrinking" scene.

But all was not well in Pantoland. A jam-stealing monster known as The Jammerwocky, played so well by Jude Taylor, had been helping herself to The Duchess's supply at the market. In his first appearance as a panto dame, Simon Johnson threw himself wholeheartedly into the role of the jamless Duchess, who had to admit to the Queen that she was unable to supply Her Majesty's favourite jam tarts. As everyone knows, a Queen of Hearts without her tarts is a fearsome prospect, and none more fearsome than Jody Allan's brilliant portrayal of the wicked Queen. Her many cries of "Off with their heads!" were each followed by a clever Head Count prop, complete with photographs, keeping a tally of the rolling heads. Her snivelling son Cecil, The Knave of Hearts, (panto regular John Sirett, enjoying the boozing) had designs on getting rid of Mummy so he could be King, while all the time pretending to be a loyal Mummy's boy, but kept in line by a very



convincing Sergeant played by Poppy Cook.

Along came Fairy Know-it-All. Hooray! A fairy is essential to panto and this one was played by Lisa Miles. She presented a solution to the sticky situation, involving the finding of three magical items with which Alice could defeat the monster. To find them, Alice needed clues, which were provided by the White Rabbit, dressed in numerous different costumes; all from different pantomimes! So, off the intrepid adventurers set, in search of a happy ending. An eclectic bunch including the hilarious, bickering twins Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum played by Scarlet Young and Lola Smith joined by the chaotic and equally hilarious trio of the Mad Hatter, the March Hare and the Dormouse played joyfully by Emily Smith, Noah Birkbeck and Jess Kidner. Said happy ending was provided by the revelation that the monster was only stealing the jam to feed her baby Jammerwocky. Awww.

The action moved along at a swift pace, with lively songs, superb costumes, (particularly Ellie Johnson as the Walrus, Freya Lush as the Cheshire Cat and Emily Smith as The Caterpillar, atop a giant mushroom). The wonderful scenery, courtesy of Coaley Art Group and many inventive, large-scale props (the oysters on their rock were especially clever) all added to the magic of wonderland.

The pantomime grows in popularity every year, and this year there were quite a few newcomers to the cast.

One being Mike Brooks who teamed up perfectly with Ray Fielding to play the comic duo of Bill and Ben. A strong chorus line of fifteen youngsters were superbly entertaining in a variety of roles and brought the story to life so well.

Coaley pantomime is truly a team and community effort with over ninety people involved in putting on the show, and over five hundred people came to see it. All the proceeds are donated to local charities and just causes, mainly within the village.

This year's director Steve Birkbeck would like to thank each and every person who made this show such a success. "Unbridled enthusiasm, hard work and talent and an awful lot of good fun. As a village we should be very proud of what we manage to achieve every year with a shoestring budget, limited resources and a huge amount of community spirit. Well done everybody. Bravo!"



## USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish Councillors	Martin Pearcy	890818
	John Hobson	07715 558110
	Shona Pearcy	890818
	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	Caroline Eardley	890139
Snow Warden	Jonathan Leigh coaleysnowwarden@gmail.com	860665 07767 660206
Community Shop		899000
Coaley WI	June Dunlop	890302
Friendship Group	Pat Grimwood and Isobel Farmer	890689 890556
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