

# Coaley Parish NEWSLETTER

Issue no 140

February / March 2025

Parish Council Vacancies  
Produce Show Preview

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
4th Feb	Friendship	2.30pm	Hall
6th Feb	Knitting	2.30pm	Whitehaven
10th Feb	Whist	2.00pm	Jubilee Room
22nd Feb	Fish and Chip quiz night		Hall
4th March	Knitting	2.30pm	tba
6th March	Friendship	2.30pm	Hall
10th March	Whist	2.00pm	Jubilee Room
29th March	Murder Mystery Night		Hall
4th-5th May	Plant Swap		Throughout Village
10th May	Coaley Rocks		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 Sunday 16th March 2025.**

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: A frosty scene from Mike Davis*

## CRAG UPDATE

As everyone wound down for some well-earned rest over Christmas, we managed to maintain momentum with a few wonderful events. Over the festive period, we hosted an evening of Christmas drinks and nibbles to thank our supporters and team for their hard work in driving the project forward. The event was well-attended and offered a welcome opportunity for everyone to catch up.

On New Year's Eve, a lovely group of all ages braved the elements for a village walk across the fields. It was a fun way to blow away the Christmas cobwebs and welcome the New Year, finishing at the Fox with drinks by the fire.

We started the New Year with a bang on the 11th of January with our first Nature Morning. Held at the Village Hall, the event featured Wrens Birds of Prey and three beautiful owls that delighted attendees of all ages. Visitors also enjoyed making bird feeders, relaxing with tea and cake, and

participating in children's activities. Entry was free, with donations raising an impressive £342 for a good cause. A huge thank you goes to Amanda and Paul Godden for leading the bird feeder activity, as well as everyone who baked cakes and worked behind the scenes to ensure the event's success.

It's going to be a big year for CRAG. The designs for the new play parks are finalised and currently on display in the village shop. The first round of grant applications has been submitted, and construction will begin as soon as funding is secured. Meanwhile, our crowdfunding campaign with Stroud District Council's match-funding scheme is gathering momentum. If we meet our target, the council will match up to £10,000 in funding. Even small donations of £2 or £5 can make a big difference. To contribute, visit [www.spacehive.com/crag](http://www.spacehive.com/crag).

Several exciting events are coming up.

*Having a rest on the New Year walk*



On the 27th of January, we'll host a pub quiz at the Old Fox with quizmaster Wills Allan and a raffle. On the 22nd of February, our popular fish and chip quiz night will return to the Village Hall. Then, on the 29th of March, we'll present our first Murder Mystery Night in collaboration with CADS and sponsored by DCS. This promises to be an entertaining evening of intrigue and fun, all in aid of the Rec. Tickets for all events are available via email at [coaleyreactiongroup@gmail.com](mailto:coaleyreactiongroup@gmail.com).

Our next Nature Mornings are scheduled for the 8th of February, focusing on trees, and the 8th of March, which will explore bugs. These free events (kindly sponsored by [www.wearehedgy.co.uk](http://www.wearehedgy.co.uk)) provide an opportunity for everyone to appreciate

and engage with the environment. Looking ahead, on the 12th April Sue and Peter Jones will be leading a walk around the Coaley countryside admiring the Spring Bulbs, put the date in your diary more details will follow.

We're also in the process of trimming hedges before the birds begin nesting. If you have some free time and would like to help with small jobs around the site, please get in touch via email or through our Facebook page.

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm. Let's make this a fantastic year for CRAG!

*Making bird feeders at the CRAG Nature Morning*



## SCHOOL

Happy New Year from Coaley C of E Primary School!

The build up to the Christmas holidays is always a very busy time in the school calendar but also a very special and exciting time too. Our celebrations began with our Christingle Service in Church; it is always magical seeing our children learn about the meaning of the Christingle and watch their faces illuminate in the glow of the candlelight. Our Carol Service was just as magical and the children performed wonderfully as they retold the story of the nativity. There is always a lot of admiration for the younger children, particularly any stray animals, who dress up in character to replicate the Nativity scene.

The fun didn't stop there, during the last week of term, our whole school community visited the Everyman Theatre to watch Aladdin. It was just fantastic and the children were filled with laughter and joy as they booed, cheered, chanted and giggled at the characters. Tweedy was a particular hit and the highlight of the visit for many of our children; they were captivated when he climbed into a balloon. I did spend more time watching the reactions and facial expressions on the children's faces than the panto itself! The festive celebrations continued into the evening of the penultimate day of term at the school disco where our school hall was transformed into a winter wonderland. A huge thank you to the Friends of Coaley School (FOCS) who organised this event and made it

so enjoyable for the children.

Despite the very cold return to school this term, children have settled back in well and have a whole host of exciting learning and enrichment opportunities planned. Many children are busy preparing and practising their two-minute presentations for the forthcoming 'Public Speaking House Competition' which will take place later this term. For this competition, the children have had freedom to choose a topic of choice which they are passionate and knowledgeable about.

## DEFIBRILLATOR

~~Christingle Service~~ Defibrillator at the village



hall for over eight years so it's worth reminding everyone how you can get access to it.

If you suspect someone is having a heart attack or a cardiac arrest you must dial 999 and ask for an ambulance. The ambulance control will give you instructions if cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is required and also provide the access code to unlock the defibrillator cabinet. Do not leave the casualty alone or stop CPR to get the defibrillator.

Survival from a cardiac arrest is dependent on the chain of survival:

1. Early recognition and call for help
2. Early CPR
3. Early Defibrillation
4. Post resuscitation care

You will be able to help with the first three. It's vital that the chain is not broken.

A basic guide to CPR is available from the British Heart Foundation. Search for 'RevivR' online.

Since it was installed the defibrillator has been deployed four times. This doesn't mean it's been used but it's been taken to an incident of some sort. If it is deployed it is then unavailable for use until it's checked over, so please contact us after returning it. Details are inside the cabinet.

## PRODUCE SHOW

The Produce Show committee met

recently to decide on the schedule for the show in September. Here are the arts & crafts and photography classes that need some forward planning. Please remember also to think of calendar photographs when you're about and about.

### Arts and Crafts

- A knitted/crocheted toy
- A hotwater bottle cover - any medium something made from patchwork
- Bunting for a baby
- A wood carving
- An item of pottery
- Something new from something old
- Winter, any medium
- Landscape on wood
- Picture of a garden, any medium
- A decorated welly boot

### Photography

- Reflection
- People
- An insect
- Architecture

## COALEY PLANT SWAP

The annual Coaley Plant Swap is being organised on the 4 & 5 May 25 so save the date in your calendar, put in a few extra seeds, pot up any plants you divide and you will have plenty of plants to swap.

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

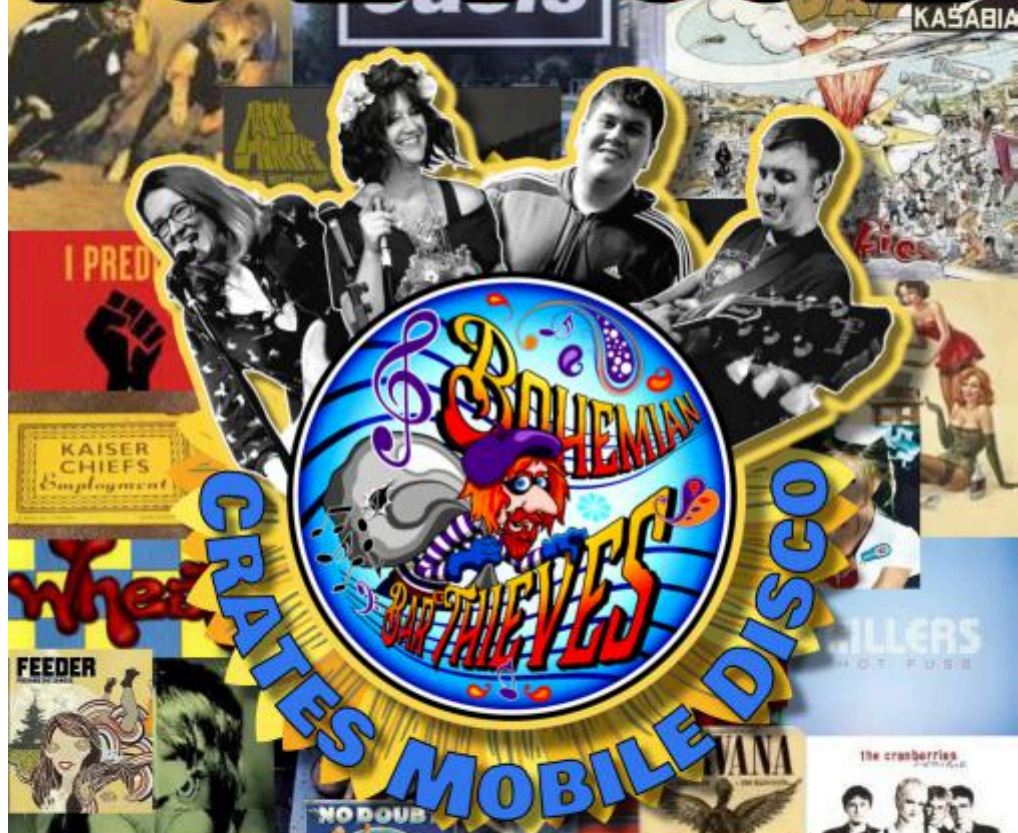
## PLAYGROUP

All of the children have settled back

COALEY VILLAGE PLAYGROUP PRESENTS

# COALEY ROCKS

## 90'S / 00'S



**COALEY VILLAGE HALL**

**SAT 10TH MAY 2025**

**MORE INFO COMING SOON**

after returning from the Christmas break and it's been lovely to hear what they have all been up to with their families. We started the term with our topic book 'what the ladybird heard' and the children have loved playing in our role play police station. We have also been learning about Scotland in line with Burns Night and we look forward to our Chinese New Year celebrations coming up.

### **Fundraising**

We held our first Christmas fair at playgroup in December for the playgroup and school children and families. It was very successful and we raised just over £200 from the event. All of the parents gave some positive feedback and it was a really lovely event. We have a quiz coming up in February at the pub, we plan to do an Easter event for our families in April and we have Coaley Rocks returning in May.

### **Community support**

In December we were delighted to be asked by the produce show to decorate their small Christmas tree outside the village shop. Each of our children made a bauble and we met with the produce show committee to put our baubles on the tree. The children enjoyed decorating the tree and visiting the tree with their parents to show them their bauble. Playgroup have also been in contact with the produce show about joining in with the show in September which we are really looking forward to.

We were very lucky to have had a visit from the queen of hearts and the

dormouse from Alice in pantoland. They very kindly came into playgroup to read the story to the children and the children loved seeing them.

Request - We would really love to paint all of our outdoor fences to try and make them last a little bit longer. If you are able to donate any leftover outdoor fence paint that you may have lying around in the garage we would be very grateful. Please get in touch if you can help.

### **Availability**

We have very limited spaces and have a waiting list until September 2026. If you would like to add your child's name to the list then please email us.

## **SHOP**

### **Christmas trading**

We made a great effort to make Christmas special for people using the shop and as a result had a very successful trading period. Much of this was down to the crafts that Abby Conway produced specially. The tea towels were particularly successful! The festive goodies from Hobbs House Bakery also went down very well and our customers enjoyed the tasting day.

### **Chase the winter blues away with a marmalade making session**

Now that Christmas is over many of us will be feeling deflated and full of the winter blues. Why not cheer yourself up by making marmalade. We have a good stock of Seville oranges for £2.20 a kilo.



### February bargains

Another way to cheer yourself up is to grab a few bargains - we always have a discount basket at the front of the shop. The 2025 Coaley calendar is now only £4. Other reduced items include diet Coke, lasagne sauce and red wine sauce to spice up your meals.

### Contact us

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

## GARDEN WILDLIFE

Kate Parkinson sends this item about the wildlife in her garden.

I thought the newsletter of 2025 should start on a happy note. There is a lot of wildlife about if one takes time to

notice.

I live at Hamshill and the following birds visit, live in or near my garden.

- |               |                  |                 |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| robin         | blackbird        | chafinch        |
| wren          | great tit        | goldfinch       |
| jay           | blue tit         | collared dove   |
| rook          | pigeon           | magpie          |
| thrush        | greenfinch       | jackdaw         |
| house sparrow |                  | coal tit        |
| redwing       | fieldfare        | long-tailed tit |
| buzzard       | green woodpecker |                 |
| pheasant      | starling         | sparrowhawk     |
- We also have the following:
- |          |           |             |
|----------|-----------|-------------|
| hedgehog | toad      | frog        |
| newt     | slow worm | grass snake |

There are no chemicals used in my garden. Caterpillars are picked off by hand, aphids are squashed and best we can, and we rely on wasps and ladybirds to eat them. Ants are eaten by the green woodpecker. We always have stinging nettles somewhere.

All of these give me constant delight - it's wonderful to watch their antics.

## NURTURE NATURE

In the light of the devastating fires

around and in Los Angeles, California, still currently raging fanned by hurricane force winds—we think of the human cost in lives, injuries and property destruction. Let us also realise the terrible destruction of forests, woods and vegetation taking place. With so much habitat loss the environmental damage will have devastated wildlife species too. It is doubtful whether many species could have survived.

Some of you will have been taking part in the The RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch 24th – 26th January. The results will be interesting as to which species are surviving the increasing pressures due to changing climate patterns and which are suffering further decline. Details of both are on the Web. Annual winter migrations from Scandinavia appear to be fewer this winter. We have seen fewer fieldfares, redwings, and starlings. So it will be interesting to see the big picture throughout the British Isles when published. For those readers taking part remember to submit your records by the due dates. Also submit your data to the local county websites, details of two at the end of this article.

Some readers might listen to Tweet of the Week on BBC Radio 4 just before the 9a.m. News on Sunday mornings. Recently, crossbills were featured. There is the Scottish Crossbill, (*Loxia scottica*) mainly confined to the Caledonian pine woodlands. There is also a slightly smaller species (*Loxia curvirostra* - 15 cm) found in Southern England, for which the New Forest is a

known location. Both have heavy distinctive beaks. When the nestlings hatch, the bills are straight. However, around twenty seven days, the upper mandible grows either left or right. So when they become fledglings and adults they are able to prise out the seeds of mainly Scots pine cones, the prime source of their diet.

There is increasing awareness of the damage being done to Nature by man the world over. Wars, especially in Africa, are displacing millions of refugees and this is putting pressure on wildlife as displaced people scavenge for food, such as primates, for bush meat. Pangolins too are prime targets and many other species. This is having a devastating effect on many species which are now on Red Lists and some are near extinction. These concerns have been highlighted recently on the BBC World Service. We should endeavour to involve our children in these concerns, a good primer for such is Margaret Hutchinson's book 'Children as Naturalists', first published in 1947. Copies are still available on the internet. A reminder to readers that any bird sightings, especially of rarities can be posted on county ornithological websites, here are two: Wiltshire Ornithological Society (WOS) [wiltshirebirds.co.uk](http://wiltshirebirds.co.uk) and Gloucestershire, [glos.bird.recorder@gmail.com](mailto:glos.bird.recorder@gmail.com).

Otis Tarda

# COALEY PARISH COUNCIL NOTICE OF CASUAL VACANCIES

## Are you interested in becoming a Parish Councillor?

Are you passionate about your community? Do you want to help make a long-lasting change? Do you have innovative ideas for the council? Do you have concerns about a specific issue and want to do something about it? If this is you, then we need you. We need people from all backgrounds and experiences who reflect their community to put themselves forward for co-option to the Parish Council.



Following the 2024 Local Council Election process in May there are still three vacancies on Coaley Parish Council. The Parish Council is seeking to fill these vacancies by co-option at the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council as soon as possible.



No special qualification is required to be a councillor. It is important that all sorts of people serve as councillors to so that all parts of the community are represented. Training for new councillors is also available to help you understand the responsibilities of the role.

If you think you'd like to join the Parish Council or would like to know more, please get in touch with the clerk ([clerk@coaleypc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@coaleypc.org.uk)) who is happy to talk with you about the role and what's involved.

## USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish Councillors	Martin Pearcy	890818
	Caroline Eardley	890139
	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	860665
	coaleysnowwarden@gmail.com	07767 660206
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