

Coaley Parish NEWSLETTER

Issue no 148
June / July 2026

A photograph of a sheep and a lamb in a grassy field. The sheep is lying down in the foreground, and the lamb is sitting on its back. The background is filled with lush green trees and foliage.

**Council rec consultation decision
Grants to local organisations**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
1st June	CRAG pub quiz	7.30pm	The Old Fox
2nd June	Friendship	1.30pm	Outing
4th June	Knitting	2.30pm	tba
8th June	Whist	2pm	Jubilee Room
12th June	CRAG drop-in session	2pm - 4pm	Shop
20th June	Nature morning	10am - 12 noon	Hall
26th June	CRAG drop-in session	6pm-8pm	Jubilee Room
27th June	Coaleyfest	12 noon-10pm	
2nd July	Knitting	2.30pm	tba
7th July	Friendship	2.30pm	Jubilee Room
13th July	Whist	2pm	Jubilee Room

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 July 2026. See coaleypc.org.uk/newsletter_guidelines.

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: *By Mike Davis.*

PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION

Proposal for the planting of a native boundary hedge from CRAG (Coaley Recreation Action Group).

Thank you to all those who took the time to provide their comments to the proposed hedge along the road bordering the Coaley recreation ground. There were around 50 submissions received.

The majority of comments by a large margin were opposed to the proposal on grounds of safety and visibility. Safety for both users of the pavement and for vehicles exiting the car park. Some were also concerned with cost of maintaining the hedge and from the village community shop concerns on the impact on trade as the shop would be less visible from the road. Those that broadly supported the hedge raised concerns on litter and height of the hedge and composition of the species within it.

The council respects the views of residents so we will not be proceeding with the proposed hedge planting, the hedge plants which had already been received were found a good home, and were gratefully received by the Coaley primary school for their wild play area, so have not been wasted.

Our decision was that CRAG (Coaley Recreation Action Group), if they wish can after 3 years present a further proposal to the Parish Council for a hedge if they wish, but no sooner.

We continue to thank the CRAG team for their dedicated work and enthusiasm in their ongoing creation of making our Coaley Recreation ground, a very special place that we can all be proud of.

Martin Percy
Chair of Coaley Parish Council

COALEY C OF E PRIMARY ACADEMY

It has been a wonderfully busy and uplifting time at Coaley Primary with so much to celebrate across our school community. A real highlight of the summer term has been the completion and grand opening of our beautiful new cabin building, The Nest, which even made the local Gazette! This was a truly special occasion, bringing together all members of our school community alongside the very generous individuals and organisations who supported us. It was a moment of pride and gratitude as we celebrated such an important milestone for our school.

Since opening, The Nest has already become a much-loved and highly valued space. It is being used for small group teaching, as a calm and purposeful assessment space, and for whole-class library visits (something we were previously unable to offer within our original library setting). We have also been delighted to open an after-school drop-in library session, giving children the opportunity to visit with their parents/carers and younger siblings. It really is a space that reflects



Cutting the ribbon on The Nest

our vision of learning, inclusion and community through our family coming together to help one another to flourish.

At the end of the spring term, our children in Owls Class treated us to a sensational ukulele concert, showcasing their growing confidence, talents and joy in performance. We are thrilled to share that there will be another opportunity to see our talented musicians perform at Coaleyfest on Saturday 27th June- we hope many of you will be able to come along and support them.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils who have completed their SATs. They approached the week with resilience, maturity and positivity. A particular highlight for them was their daily breakfast in school, ranging from Biscoff waffles to bacon baps, which helped set a relaxed and supportive tone each morning.

We have also been delighted to welcome our new Reception children

following the delivery of their very special golden tickets. It is always a joyful time as we begin to build relationships with our newest pupils and families. We look forward to warmly welcoming all new members of our school community in September.

Enrichment remains an important part of life at Coaley, and we have been fortunate to offer a wide range of after-school clubs this term. We are especially grateful to members of our parent community who have generously given their time and expertise to run a Meccano Club and a British Sign Language Club. Their passion and commitment have inspired our pupils and enriched our wider provision, thank you.

Looking ahead, there is much excitement as our Year 5 and 6 pupils prepare for their upcoming residential trip, a wonderful opportunity to build independence, confidence and lasting memories. Meanwhile, children in Starlings Class are eagerly anticipating their visit to the Corinium Museum, and Robins Class are looking forward to exploring Berkeley Castle as part of their learning.

As always, we are incredibly grateful for the continued support of our families and the wider village community. Together, we truly are a school family where we all flourish.

Miss Thomas
Headteacher

COALE^y RECREATION ACTION GROUP

Spring has been a busy and exciting time at the Rec, with fantastic progress across several projects, strong community involvement, and plenty of wonderful village spirit along the way.

Since opening the Toddler Park, it has been lovely to see families enjoying the swings, tractor, slide and new play equipment every day. The response from the community has been overwhelmingly positive, and we have already been making small improvements based on your feedback — including relocating the rubbish bins and exploring ideas for future additions. One particularly popular request was for bike racks, and we are delighted that Stroud District Council has agreed to provide these.

Behind the scenes, our volunteers have continued to work incredibly hard to keep the Rec looking welcoming, safe and well cared for. Recent volunteer work has included:

- Watering the newly planted trees, which are now beginning to blossom
- Cleaning Rec entrances and weeding the paths and plaza
- Repairing hazards on the multi-play equipment, court fencing and car park rails

In April, the CRAG Chair gave a presentation at the well-attended Parish Council AGM, highlighting the

progress made over the past year and sharing exciting plans for the future of the Recreation Ground.

April Nature Morning – Supporting Garden Birds

Our April Nature Morning focused on supporting garden birds, covering everything from food and habitats to understanding when birds should not be fed during the summer months. Visitors enjoyed displays about native birds, eggs and feeding habits, alongside crafts, refreshments and plenty of conversation.

The event was especially timely following newly issued guidance advising against feeding garden birds seed between May and September because of the increased risk of disease transmission. It was wonderful to be able to share this important information with the community in such an engaging and accessible way.

Play Mounds Transformation

Throughout May, volunteers turned out with gloves, goggles and plenty of enthusiasm to begin transforming the play mounds area. Using battery trimmers kindly loaned by CUCAN, teams spent two weeks clearing heavy weed growth before landscaping work began.

With a 3-ton excavator generously provided by Rocket Rentals, volunteers then started reshaping the mounds into attractive natural features designed for informal play, climbing, rolling, exploring and family seating.

Over the coming weeks, the surfaces will settle before being seeded, allowing the area to green up over the summer and become a much more welcoming landscape at the heart of the Rec.

A huge thank you goes to everyone who gave their time, energy and good humour to help get this ambitious project underway.

Happy First Birthday to the Coaley Sensory Garden

Our most colourful and calming corner of the village is officially one year old — and what an incredible transformation it has been.

From a bare patch of ground to one of the Rec's most loved and inclusive spaces, the Sensory Garden has become a peaceful haven enjoyed by residents and visitors of all ages.

This special space simply would not exist without the dedication of so many volunteers. Thank you to everyone who has planted, watered, weeded, swept, maintained and cared for the garden throughout the past year.

Special thanks must also go to Elizabeth Ely, whose creativity, thoughtful design and ongoing dedication continue to shape and nurture this extraordinary community space.

CRAG Annual General Meeting

We were delighted to welcome sponsors, volunteers, Parish Council representatives and members of local

groups to the CRAG Annual General Meeting held on 19 May in the Jubilee Room.

During the evening, we reflected on the achievements of the past year, shared plans for future improvements to the Recreation Ground, and discussed new opportunities for the community to become involved in upcoming projects and events.

Events in June

Pub Quiz at The Old Fox

1 June 7.30pm.

Hosted by Jaqs and Bruce Caldwell

Nature Morning – Supporting Wildlife in Summer

20 June, 10am - 12 noon

CRAG Drop-In Sessions – Your Opinion Matters

Come along to view the proposed design for the new Junior Park, share your thoughts on the recent improvements, and discuss how you might like to get involved in future projects.

- Friday 12 June, 2-4pm, Village Shop
- Friday 26 June, 6-8pm, Jubilee Room

We would love to hear your ideas, your priorities and how you would like to help shape the future of the Rec.

For more information, contact:
Coaley Recreation Action Group
coaleyreactiongroup@gmail.com



COME AND TALK TO CRAG YOUR OPINION MATTERS PUBLIC FEEDBACK SESSIONS

FRIDAY 12TH JUNE
2-4PM COALEY VILLAGE SHOP

FRIDAY 26TH JUNE
6-8PM JUBILEE ROOM, COALEY VILLAGE HALL



CRAG ARE INVITING ALL USERS OF THE REC TO COME ALONG AND SHARE THEIR FEEDBACK ON THE RECENT CHANGES, AS WELL AS FUTURE PLANS FOR THE SPACE. THESE SESSIONS ARE A CHANCE TO:

- HEAR ABOUT THE PLANS FOR THE REC AND WHAT'S COMING NEXT.
- SHARE YOUR VIEWS ON WHAT MATTERS MOST, HELPING SHAPE THE PRIORITIES FOR THE SPACE.
- TELL US HOW YOU'D LIKE TO BE INVOLVED AS THE PROJECT DEVELOPS.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME, AND ALL FEEDBACK IS VALUED.



WI

Coaley WI were very privileged to have a talk from Isabel Oliver, Chief Medical officer for Wales.

Isabel was brought up in Spain where she trained as a doctor before coming to the UK to work. After some time, she decided that prevention was better than cure and studied to gain a Masters at the London school of hygiene and tropical medicine. She was working in London at the time of the 911 incident and it was following this that her work included planning for possible smallpox 'warfare'. Isabel said smallpox is the first and only infectious disease to be eradicated globally. With her work in epimeology (the distribution of diseases) she was drawn to the south west where there had been a meningitis outbreak in Stroud in the 80's and she talked about the work done then to halt the spread of the disease. When investigating an Ebola outbreak, she held strategic meetings at the Jenner museum where Jenner had pioneered the concept of vaccinations and created the first smallpox vaccine. Isabel told us about her work at Porton Down where the first tests were done on the Covid vaccine as well the covid testing kits. Isabel moved to her current post as she was interested in the statistic that the Wales population have worse health than in England but they have really good strategies. Many areas of her work were covered in this captivating talk and there were lots of questions from the audience.

In April we renewed our membership so it was a busy evening with forms and finances. We fundraise throughout the year and because of this we are able to reduce our subs to £38 for the year (They are set nationally at £54). This includes access to all meetings, a monthly newsletter and a national magazine along with free access to online courses and much more.

In April we celebrated Coaley Peak day with our member and organiser Mary Penny to celebrate this great beauty spot on our doorstep.

Also in April we had a musical evening with Coaley bell ringers who joined our meeting bringing their hand bells. The current group came together in 2023 and a video was shown of the bell ringers. They have done various shows for fun including Coaley Fest and Slimbridge WI and the history of the bells go back to 1840-1900. They perform carols and songs and the music is written and transposed. There are 12 bells covering an octave. 7 ringers attended and played oranges and lemons and members were asked to guess what it was and this was followed by a guess the intro session.

We always hand out flowers to members on their birthday but this month they also had Happy Birthday played for them.

May bank holiday was our first WI Cafe as we supported the Produce show group for the annual plant swap. We were pleased to see so many people enjoying the event and calling in for

cakes, drinks and chatter and over the two days we raised over £800. Thank you for your support. The money helps us to pay for our regular outgoings such as hall hire, speakers and refreshments and it also allows us to reduce our annual subs and then at the end of the year we donate to various charities.

We look forward to brighter weather and hope your plants are settling in well in your gardens .

Our meetings take place on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm. Why not come along.

June Dunlop
Secretary
Coaley WI

coaleywi@hotmail.com
coaleywi

PANTO CASTING

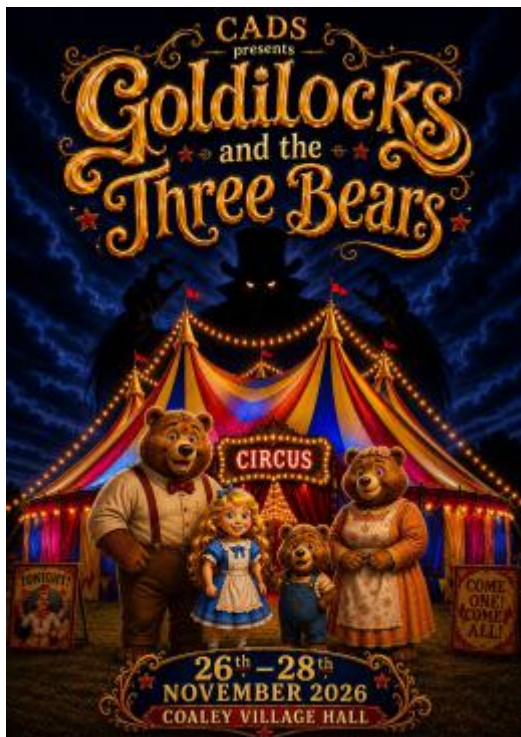
Roll Up! Roll Up! We are pleased to announce that the CADS 2026 Pantomime will be "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" by Warren McWilliams.

Informal Casting Sessions will take place at Coaley Village Hall on the following dates in June:

Senior Members (Aged 12+): Friday
19th June 2026 at 7.00pm

Junior Members (Aged 7+): Sunday
21st June 2026 at 10.00am

Come along and join the fun!



We welcome anyone who wants to have a go – if you are new to CADS and interested in taking part, please contact jody.allan@outlook.com or comment below and we will ensure you are sent a copy of the script. For junior members an excerpt of the script will be provided in print at the casting session. We look forward to seeing you in June!

Please note our rehearsals are on Friday nights and Sunday mornings from the beginning of September until the show for all cast members, and additionally Monday evenings for all senior cast. If you cannot commit to these times we will be unable to invite you to be part of the cast.



Grants to local organisations

In the January Coaley newsletter we announced a new approach to support local organisations in the village. We have financial reserves that occasionally allow us to make small grants or donations, on an ad hoc basis, to organisations that are consistent with the aims and values of Coaley community shop. Grants or donations will be made entirely at the discretion of the management committee. We are now inviting local, community organisations to apply for a grant.

Grants will be made to local organisations or groups that can demonstrate that the money granted will be for the benefit of the Coaley community. Grants will not be made to individuals. We will not give money that is inconsistent with the Coaley Community Shop vision or its specific aims and objectives.

We will publicise the grants we have provided on the shop website, Facebook page and in the Coaley newsletter. They will also be reported at the shop's AGM.

Applications should be made in writing setting out:

- The name of the organisation
- The aims and objectives of the organisation
- How much money is requested
- What the money will be used for
- Who will benefit

Application should be sent by email to coaleyshop@gmail.com. The closing date for applications is Tuesday, June 30th

Volunteering

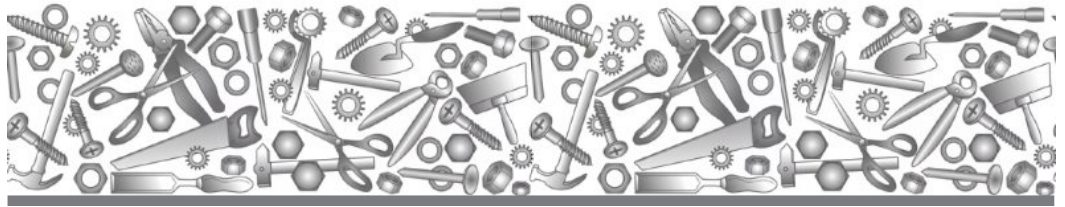
If you use the shop regularly you will know that we have a very dedicated team of volunteers who do everything from serving on the committee, serving behind the counter, making sure the shop is well stocked and carrying out day to day maintenance.

We work hard to ensure that we provide a friendly and effective service, so a lot of work goes on behind the scenes to make this happen. This includes regular training sessions for volunteers.

We now, urgently need new volunteers. Without volunteers we will not be able to keep the shop running. It's a great way to meet new people and contribute to village life. The committee makes sure that volunteers are fully supported, and new volunteers will always work alongside old hands until they are confident. Please do speak to one of our volunteers if you are interested in joining the team.

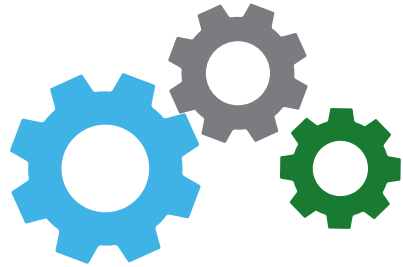
Partnership

At Coaley community shop we are always happy to work in partnership



COALEY AND ULEY
CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK (CUCAN)

REPAIR CAFE



THROW IT AWAY? NO WAY!!

SUNDAY 12TH JULY
2-4pm, at
St Giles Church, Uley

Bring and learn how to repair your broken things

Example repairs: General repairs, tool sharpening, textiles, small electricals, motorised items, jewellery cleaning, spectacle repairs...

For more information, email: coaleyuleycan@gmail.com
Or visit us at www.cucan.org.uk; [Facebook.com/coaleyuleycan](https://www.facebook.com/coaleyuleycan)

with other village organisations and community groups. We have recently been working together with Coaley WI to collect donations for the Happy Handbag charity. Happy Handbag is a private, not for profit scheme set up in August 2016 by Jeanne Long. The Happy Handbag aim is to provide a handbag containing ladies personal/hygiene items to women in time of great hardship and/or homelessness. For further information go to <https://www.thegentletouch.co.uk/happy-handbag-about/>

We also continue to collect for the food bank.

Contact us
www.coaleycommunityshop.org
www.facebook.com/coaleycommunityshop

PLAYGROUP

This term we have been making the most of the spring weather and exploring nature through lots of fun activities and stories. The children have been very excited to discover blue tits nesting in the bird box in our garden. We have enjoyed quietly watching the birds fly to and from the nest and listening carefully to hear the baby birds chirping inside. This has led to lots of conversations about animals, caring for nature and life cycles. Our stories this term have included The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Commotion in the Ocean, which inspired a variety of creative activities. The children have been learning about healthy eating, sea life and life cycles

while developing their fine motor skills through threading Cheerios onto pipe cleaners to make caterpillars, creating colourful butterflies, and making jellyfish pictures while practising their cutting skills. It has been wonderful to see the children so engaged, curious and enthusiastic about learning through play.

Donations

If anyone has any old costume jewellery, hats or handbags they no longer use we would be very grateful to be able to add it to our dressing up box. Also if you have any old laptops that no longer work we would be very grateful for these, they make a great addition to our office role play.

Fundraising

Our bingo event was a huge success and raised lots of vital funds for the playgroup. Thank you so much to everyone that attended, donated prizes and bought raffle tickets. A huge thank you to Everhot who sponsored the event.

Availability

We are currently full and have a waiting list in place. Please get in touch if you would like to add your child to our waiting list, spaces are filling up fast.

Getting in touch

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

Gmail: coaleyplaygroup@gmail.com
Telephone: 07434364850

FRIENDS OF COALEY SCHOOL (FOCS)

SATURDAY 27TH JUNE

12PM - 10PM

FAMILY FUN

BOUNCY CASTLE • CRAFT TENT • FIRE ENGINE • FACEPAINTING •
STORYTELLING (WITH SPECIAL GUESTS!) • HOBBY HORSE RACES •
TUG OF WAR & OTHER GAMES

LIVE MUSIC

BOHEMIUM BAR THIEVES • JAY WATTS • JONES JAMMERS •
ABADOOZIE • INSOMNIA • SUE&NICOLA FEAT. BIG SOUND & MORE

FOOD & DRINK

BBQ • PIZZA • CARIBBEAN • SWEET TREATS • THE OLD FOX

COALEY PRIMARY SCHOOL, GL11 5EB

EARLY BIRD TICKETS: ADULT £9, CHILD £6

(UNDER 2'S FREE. ALL ENTERTAINMENT IS INCLUDED)

UNTIL 31ST MAY
(THEN FULL PRICE
TICKETS: £12/£8)



PRINTED TICKETS ALSO
AVAILABLE FROM
THE SHOP & THE OLD FOX



COALEYFEST '26

COALEY PLANT SWAP 2026

This year's Plant Swap was one of our most successful yet, with hundreds of plants and a steady stream of people arriving throughout the weekend to swap, browse, and support the event. The sun shone on both days, creating the perfect backdrop for a relaxed and friendly village occasion.

The variety of plants on offer was remarkable — from flowers and shrubs to vegetables and home-grown curiosities — and it was wonderful to see so many people chatting, sharing tips, and heading home with new treasures for their gardens. As one person said: “An amazing event we look forward to it every year!”

Thanks to everyone's generosity, we also raised a record amount for charity, a fantastic achievement for a small village event.

A special thank you goes to all the stall holders and to everyone who grew plants especially for the occasion. Your time, effort, and enthusiasm are what make the Plant Swap such a highlight of the village calendar.

At the end of the event, the remaining plants were donated to Watershed Riding for Disabled, ensuring that nothing went to waste.

Another brilliant community effort — thank you to everyone who took part, helped, baked, grew, swapped, or simply came along to enjoy the day.



SPRING

Spring is here and I'm enjoying every moment. The flowers and hedges are beautiful, particularly the hawthorn.

There is already a fledgling robin in the garden. Then look like brown pom-poms, but they have the movement and stature of the adults. One of the nest boxes is being used by great tits. They are really busy feeding and there must be plenty of food, as the adults are rarely on the feeders, and they are certainly not feeding the chicks from there.

We have had visitations from the green woodpecker (eating our ants) and the great spotted woodpecker has visited both the feeders and the tree trunks.

Our pheasant usually comes now with a lady friend (his foot/leg has healed) which is lovely to see. Two or three years ago a female pheasant crossed the road at the bottom of Hamshill with five or six chicks. Maybe these two will be successful.

There are swallows here now which is great!, but sadly they no longer sit on my electricity cable and chitter chat. I have not seen any house martins, although they were in Cumbria a few weeks ago, maybe they will be here in a while.

It's more difficult for them as plastic fascias do not allow their nests to stick. Swallows only need an open barn, hut, garage etc. I know they make a mess but when you think then have flown all

the way from Africa it's not too much to ask to clean it up. Also swallows fly over the Sahara and it's thought that for every square kilometer one swallow dies. A few years ago I was talking to a gentleman who had lived most of his life in Uganda. He said that twice a year (I think it must be Lake Victoria) produces millions of black flies. He said the swallows gorge on them before and when they return. Nature!

After a wet winter we've had quite a long dry spell, which has been good for pollination. Perhaps the fruit harvest will be good this year, as at the moment there is an abundance of red currants and gooseberries, as long as it's a small June drop!

COUNCIL AT FULL STRENGTH

Following the article in the December 2025 newsletter the council is pleased to report that three new councillors have been co-opted on to the council.

Please welcome Daryl Bird, Martin Hall and Ian Welch.

The recent council AGM allocated the councillor's areas of responsibility which you can see on the back page.

Note also that councillors now have email addresses which should be used to contact them in the first instance.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish Councillors	Martin Pearcy (Chair, policing & community safety, environment, CRAG) martin.pearcy@coaleypc.org.uk John Hobson (Vice chair, village hall representative) john.hobson@coaleypc.org.uk Daryl Bird (Allotments) daryl.bird@coaleypc.org.uk Martin Hall (CRAG) martin.hall@coaleypc.org.uk Shona Pearcy (Tree warden) shona.pearcy@coaleypc.org.uk Penny Wait (Village shop representative) penny.wait@coaleypc.org.uk Ian Welch (Policing & community safety) ian.welch@coaleypc.org.uk	
Parish Clerk	Lynn Thornton clerk@coaleypc.org.uk	545880
Stroud District Councillor	Martin Pearcy cldr.martin.pearcy@stroud.gov.uk	890818
GCC Councillor	Richard Dean richard.dean@gloucestershire.gov.uk	
Vicar	Graham Stacey	709859
Village Hall	Lesley Chalmers	890788
Coaley Church lift coordinator	Isobel Farmer	890556
Tree Warden	Shona Pearcy	890818
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 6783105 or 105
Street Lights		08000 514514