Coaley Parish NEWSLETTER

Issue no 150
October / November 2026



Speed Monitoring

New Shop: Five Years and Going Strong

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
Ist Oct	Knitting	2.30pm	Harvest House
6th Oct	Friendship	2.30pm	Jubilee Room
8th Oct	Produce Show AGM	7.00 pm	Jubilee Room
10th Oct	Nature Morning	10.00 am - noon	Hall
10th Oct	Quiz of Quizes	7.00 pm	Hall
12th Oct	Whist	2.00 pm	Jubilee Room
13th Oct	Hall AGM	7.30 pm	Jubilee Room
18th Oct	Rec Clean-Up	10.00 am	Rec
31st Oct	CRAG Halloween trail and disco	5.00-8.00pm	Hall
1st Nov	FOCS Fireworks	6.00 pm	School
3rd Nov	Friendship	2.30 pm	Jubilee Room
5th Nov	Knitting	2.30 pm	tba
9th Nov	Whist	2.00 pm	Jubilee Room
16th Nov	Old Fox Pub Quiz	7.00 pm	Old Fox
23rd Nov	Adopt a Tree Planting	10.00 am	Rec
29th Nov	Christmas tree lights switch on	6.00 pm approx	Shop

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 Monday 16th November 2026. See coaleypc.org.uk/newsletter_guidelines.

email: newsletter@coaleypc.org.uk
web: www.coaleypc.org.uk
facebook: coaleyparishcouncil
This issue edited by Stephen Cook.

Cover picture: This summer's parched landscape.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Speed Monitoring
Following resident concerns expressed by the number of speeding vehicles through the village, the parish council have through County Highways installed volume and speed monitoring equipment at two locations along the main road. This will be compared to past years data to assess any change and whether the issue of speeding has increased. Speeding vehicles are a safety risk to children, adults and animals and before long an accident will occur if not calmed.

Separately it was agreed to form a partnership with Uley Parish Council in forming a community speed watch group, as they too have issues with speeding. A Community speed watch group will allow both Coaley and Uley better access to police support and the ability to purchase speed monitoring equipment which we plan to share. In addition, there is the opportunity to jointly purchase and receive training on acquiring radar speed guns, from which data can be passed to the police and warning letters issued.

We are asking for volunteers to join the group. We are looking for about half a dozen people to join the group which could be a role in moving the speed active reminder signs, or those wishing to be involved in speed monitoring, or helping with the data or the small amount of administration for the group. Uley already have some volunteers and we would be operating jointly.

If you are interested, please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@coaleypc.org.uk.

Local Government Reorganisation
You may have picked up on the fact that Gloucestershire's Local Government Reorganisation is being paused by the secretary of state, so she can review previous decisions. We do not know exactly what this may mean for us in the county, but what we do know is that the New Unitary elections due to take place next year will now not happen, and that County councillors will be elected in 2028. From this we can deduce that the reorganisation is delayed at least a year and that Stroud DC will continue to exist for a little while longer. Whether the whole idea will be scrapped is speculation, but Gloucestershire is perhaps the least controversial of the decisions made with widescale support for a single authority and so it is perhaps just a pause. Meantime councils are scaling back or ceasing their LGR activity until a decision is made, hopefully within the next couple of months.

Emergency Planning
The Parish Council is working on creating a simple emergency plan as a local community we are encouraged to do so by national and local government. But, with this year's wildfires which were not that far away from us and the threat of flooding during winter or the sustained power cuts. This will consider where emergency accommodation can be provided, provisions and ensure we

link into Stroud District Emergency processes as civic emergency lead in our area. We will be organising an event over in the coming months to help prepare the basis of a plan and looking for assistance from other organisations in the village and will advertise this when fixed.

VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall is a much valued asset of the village. It was built originally with funds raised by the villagers at the time. It is well used for weekly events such as exercise classes, annual events such as the Produce Show and personal events such as family parties.

However it is YOUR hall and your input is welcomed on what you want in the village hall and how the hall is used.

Your ideas on future development are welcome.

The Annual General Meeting is being held on Tuesday 13th October 13th at 7.30pm.

Ideas to be considered at the AGM should be submitted to the Secretary by September 15th. Ideas submitted after this date or at the meeting will be considered by the Committee at their usual meeting.

Please come to the AGM and support the Committee and help the hall move forward.

Thank you. Barbara Davis Secretary - barbaradavis4119@gmail.com

COALEY C OF E PRIMARY ACADEMY

We have enjoyed a truly wonderful start to the new academic year at Coaley, and it has been a delight to welcome our new Reception children into the school family. They have settled exceptionally well and are already embracing school life with enthusiasm, confidence and curiosity.

Although the summer holidays provided a welcome break for pupils, there was plenty happening behind the scenes! We are grateful for several significant improvements to our school site. The pathway running alongside the school has been widened and now comfortably accommodates two-way movement, making access safer and easier for everyone at drop off and collection. New pathways have also been installed leading to our Nest building, which will make a tremendous difference as we move into the wetter and muddier winter months. To complete the project, a beautiful new picket fence now lines the ramp to The Nest, further enhancing the area.

A huge thank you goes to Mr Jones for



his hard work and dedication in bringing this project to life. The improvements have already had a positive impact on daily school life and are very much appreciated by pupils, staff and families alike.

Our staff team has also been busy preparing the learning environment for another exciting year. Robins Class has undergone a little makeover, creating an engaging and inspiring space where children can learn through exploration and discovery. It has been a joy to see the children making the most of the carefully planned provision and embracing new opportunities for learning.

Alongside this, we have created a new pastoral and nurture space within school. Equipped with resources that support positive wellbeing, self-regulation, and social, emotional and mental health needs, this dedicated area is already proving invaluable in helping children feel supported, understood and ready to learn.

At the heart of all we do is our school vision: “As a family, we flourish.” Rooted in the Christian teaching, “Love one another as I have loved you” (John 13:34), this vision continues to guide every aspect of school life and remains central to the decisions we make as a community.

This term we are celebrating our vision through a symbolic whole-school display featuring individually decorated wooden fish. Each fish is unique, reflecting the individuality, gifts and



character of every member of our school community. Together, however, they form a school of fish, symbolising the strength, safety and belonging that come from being part of a caring family. Just as fish swimming together are stronger and more resilient than those swimming alone, our children thrive when they learn, grow and support one another.

The display also reflects the strong Christian belief that we are called to live and work together with a common purpose, showing love, compassion and encouragement to one another. Throughout the term, additional elements will be added to the display, helping us explore other symbols and influences that support flourishing both within our school family and the wider world.

As we begin another year together, we are excited by the opportunities ahead and look forward to seeing every member of our school family continue to grow, thrive and flourish.

Miss Thomas
Headteacher

WI

There is no WI meeting in August which gave us time to work on our Produce Show entries. Members had some great results on the day and we were pleased to open the Wi cafe to support the event. The weather was kind to us and we raised over £460 from our tea and cake sale so thank you to everyone who visited the cafe. Thank you to Coaley shop for allowing us to use the premises, to FOCS for the use of their gazebos and thanks to everyone who helped us to set up and clear up on the day.

We are looking forward to a visit to Javelin Park in September which will be interesting and something different for us.

The speaker for our September meeting is Wildhogs hedgehog charity and we also have a competition for a hedgehog in any medium.

Nationally the WI is 111 this year which falls on the day of our meeting and it is suggested that we wear lilac or purple - the colour of the suffragettes - but I'm not sure how many of us have those colours in our wardrobe, we shall see.

The committee are busy putting together our programme for next year but you can still join us for the remaining talks this year. On October 21st we have Allsorts - a charity that provides accessible everyday experiences for disabled children, young people and their families, Then, in November it is our AGM followed by a talk from Gloucestershire Domestic abuse Support Service.

Visitors are always welcome .....£4 entry fee includes a drink on arrival (wine or juice) and tea and biscuits at the interval.

COALEY COMMUNITY SHOP

Five Years and going strong

Friday 24th July was a happy occasion for the shop as we celebrated our fifth birthday. It's hard to believe but it was five years since the new shop building was opened and since then it's been going from strength to strength.

The shop serves not just as a valuable local store and meeting place but also as a striking visual landmark for the village. Coincidentally, it was also the anniversary of the installation of the mural on the side of the shop, which showcases the artistic talent that exists in the village.

Our loyal customers were treated to cake and refreshments and it was a great opportunity for a good old chinwag. Inside...





FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Sunday 1st November

6pm Doors open 5.15pm

COALEY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

Please pay cash on the door

Adults	£5
Children	£2.50
Under 3's	Free

COALEY C E ACADEMY

Hot Food & Drink Available

No sparklers, smoking or alcohol please

friendsofcoaleyschool@gmail.com



...and out!

Annual General meeting
On Tuesday 15th September we held our Annual General Meeting. This was well-attended and shows the interest that local people take in the running of the shop. Steve Wills gave the Chairman's report and highlighted the successes that the shop has had over the past year, as well as a few challenges.

Steve stressed the fact that the shop is so much more than a grocery store. There are regular meetings of the Stroke Group and a book club. There are monthly coffee mornings, which are always well attended. The shop has also been able to provide grants to local community organisations.

Bernie Gadsby gave the treasurer's report which showed that the shop is in a healthy financial position. Full copies of the accounts are available by emailing cospa899@gmail.com.

You can support Coaley Community Shop by becoming a member, which will entitle you to vote at AGMs and to 12 complementary hot drinks for the year.

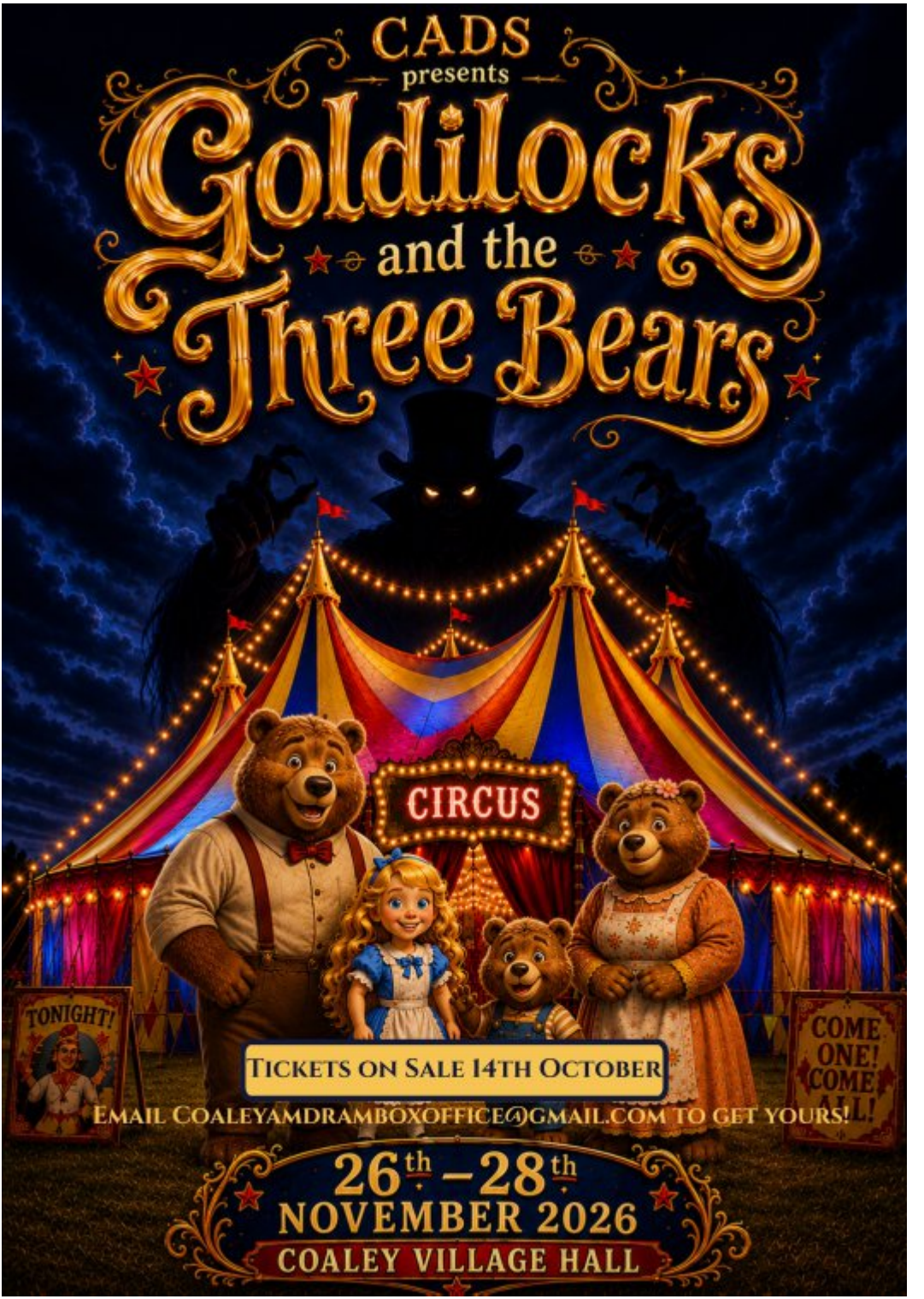
Contact us
www.coaleycommunityshop.org
facebook: coaleycommunityshop

PLAYGROUP

It has been a lovely start to the new term at Coaley Playgroup! We have enjoyed welcoming back some of our children from last year, as well as meeting new children and their families.

This term, our focus is all about getting to know our children and their families through our 'All About Me' topic. We will also be exploring feelings and emotions through the much-loved book The Colour Monster, helping the children to recognise and talk about how they feel. During September is also Recycling Week, so we will be learning about recycling and how we can all do our bit to help look after our environment. Alongside this, we will be enjoying lots of favourite stories, including Dear Zoo, Aliens Love Underpants, Owl Babies and Room on the Broom, with plenty of fun activities and learning opportunities inspired by our books.

Community support
We wanted to say a huge thank you to two local companies who helped us over the summer holidays. Firstly to Dan Smith from SMITH bespoke Carpentry & Construction for supplying and fitting our lovely new blinds.


CADS
presents
Goldilocks
and the
Three Bears
CIRCUS
TONIGHT!
COME ONE! COME ALL!
TICKETS ON SALE 14TH OCTOBER
EMAIL COALEYAMDRAMBOXOFFICE@GMAIL.COM TO GET YOURS!
26th – 28th
NOVEMBER 2026
COALEY VILLAGE HALL

And secondly to Kev Spill from KDS Painting and decorating services for removing our old shelter and putting in a brand new fence around the area. We are incredibly grateful to both companies for giving up some of their time over the holidays to complete this work for us.

Donations
We are always in need of new toys and resources so if you are having a clear out please think of us and get in touch.

COALEY RECREATION GROUND

CRAG has had a busy summer, with volunteers organising activities and events, applying for grants and seeking sponsorship for the £55,000 Junior Park project.

We were delighted with the response to our Your Opinion Counts consultation. Your feedback is now helping to shape CRAG's priorities which have now been added to the CRAG Road Map which is available to view on the community noticeboards and in the Community Shop.

A busy summer
The newly planted trees have come through the extreme summer weather remarkably well and are already providing valuable habitat for wildlife. The Sensory Garden has also continued to thrive, thanks to the volunteers who have been collecting seeds, cutting back plants and keeping the beds looking their best.

Our August Clean-Up saw a fantastic turnout, with volunteers clearing paths, sweeping leaves and tidying around the play areas. It made an immediate difference to the Rec and we are very grateful to everyone who gave up their time.

We also held a Summer Social for growers, supporters and volunteers, providing an opportunity to enjoy some food, music and games while celebrating what has been achieved over the past year.

The summer programme finished with a very successful Bat Walk, led by Andrew Heryet from the Gloucestershire Bat Group. With perfect conditions, there were plenty of bat sightings, and donations from the evening will support CRAG's ongoing conservation work.

Looking ahead
Our main focus remains raising the £55,000 needed for the new Junior Park. Every donation, sponsorship lead, grant suggestion and share of our fundraising campaign helps us get closer to our target.

CRAG's biggest autumn fundraiser is the Quiz of Quizzes on Saturday 10 October at Coaley Village Hall. With a hot supper, bar and raffle, it promises to be a great community evening, inspired by some of the most popular quiz shows and programmes on TV and radio.

The October Nature Morning will focus on compost and worms, with hands-on

COALEY RECREATION GROUND

CRAG EVENTS

What's Coming Up!

10 October 10am –
Nature Morning

10 October 7.00pm –
Quiz of Quizzes

18 October 10am–12 –
Rec Clean-Up

31 October, 5–8pm –
Halloween Trail & Disco

16 November, 7pm –
Old Fox Pub Quiz

21 November, 10am –
Adopt a Tree Planting
(National Tree Week)

To find out more visit: www.coaleyrecreationground.co.uk

Find us on Facebook | Email: coaleyrecactiongroup@gmail.com

activities, crafts, cake and our popular quiz. It is free to attend and takes place at the Village Hall.

We'll be running our annual Halloween Trail and Disco on Saturday 31st October, from 5–8pm. Come along in your best fancy dress and get ready for an evening of spooky fun! Follow the Halloween Trail before heading inside for our disco — there'll be plenty of treats, tricks and dancing along the way. We'd love to see lots of our Coaley families joining in, so get those costumes ready for a spook-tacular evening.

We will also be launching the next phase of Adopt a Tree, which will double the number of trees on the Rec. The next round of planting will take place on Saturday 21st November. This is another opportunity to sponsor a tree and help create a greener and more welcoming space for everyone.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support CRAG. Whether you volunteer, come along to an event, make a donation, share our news or simply take an interest in what we are doing, your support is helping us create a Recreation Ground that the whole community can enjoy.

To find out more, visit the Coaley Recreation Ground website, follow us on Facebook or email coaleyrecactiongroup@gmail.com.

POPPIES

Each year poppies are displayed in the centre of the village to mark Remembrance Day. The number of volunteers to put these in place has dwindled and so help is requested to help with putting them up.

Anyone able to help is asked to come to the hall car park on October 31st at 10am. Weather permitting the poppies will be put up. The more help we have the quicker the job will be done.

Contact Barbara Davis - barbaradavis4119@gmail.com

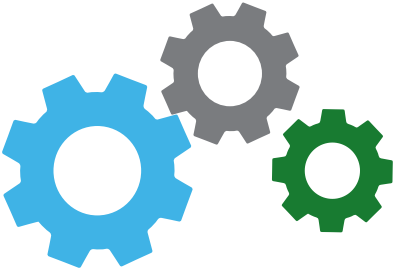
PRODUCE SHOW

The Coaley Produce Show started 84 years ago and has been held every year with a couple of exceptions, most recently COVID. Held in the Village Hall which has seen so many improvements over recent years.

Last year was thought a difficult year weather wise, but this year has been a lot worse with next to no rain from mid-June to August perhaps there should be a class for dates! However, although somewhat down on some garden produce there was still much to admire, even more so because of the challenging weather conditions. There were also lots of other entries, in arts, crafts, domestic and photos. Thanks in part to the number of school entries total entries were up on last year. Here's hoping for kinder weather conditions next year.

COALEY AND ULEY
CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK (CUCAN)

REPAIR CAFE



THROW IT AWAY? NO WAY!!

SUNDAY 18TH OCTOBER, 2-4pm, at Nympsfield Village Hall

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

Although the produce show itself is the highlight of the year there are other events and benefits that are spin offs from this long-standing show. In recent years the spring Plant Swap has become a very popular event, held in May it provides a very cost-effective way of building a plant collection. Also, the Coaley Calendar has showcased some of the very good photographers we have in the village. The calendar makes a great Christmas present and is easy to post These events together with the show raises enough money to allow the Produce Show Committee to fund other things.

The village Christmas Tree outside the shop has become a favourite and it looks lovely for anyone passing through and for the children on their way to school. The planters at the side of the shop look great and provide herbs and other produce free to pick. This year a tree was purchased and planted on the Rec as part of the CRAG project.

The show can only be a success thanks to many helpers, including: committee members, judges, WI, all the entrants, school and the village shop.

Produce show dates in the diary are:
• AGM 7pm on 8th October
• Christmas tree lights switch on Sunday 29th November
• Next year's Garden Cup will be 'The Container Garden' and there will be more details published in the New Year.

Coaley Produce Show 2026 Trophies

Vegetable Cup - Ian Whiting.
G. S. Neale Cup for Fruit - Shirin Kiral.
Flower Cup - Ann Bahcheli.
Floral Decoration Cup - Lisa Boden.
Domestic Cup - Judy Cook.
Rose Bowl - Vanessa Sprague.
Coaley W.I. Cup for Arts and Crafts - Vanessa Sprague.
Jean Steel Cup for Children - Marlowe Ellis Tixiliski.
Billet Cup for Children - Talie Lorkin.
Frank Workman Rose Bowl - Tracy Walker.
Winnie Brooks Cup for the Most Beautiful Flower - Marion McDowell.
Major Memorial Award - Jean Bryant.
Arthur Wilcox Memorial Trophy - Scott Barrett.
Cospa Cup for Photography - Mike Davis.
Florie Curson Dahlia Cup - Lisa Boden.
Centaur Cup for Coaley School (7 and under) - Rowan Hornby.
Centaur Cup for Coaley School (8 -10) - Abi Johnson.
Coaley Playgroup - Bea Blatchford.

FOXY NEWS The Old Fox
OCTOBER ISSUE 2026

OCTOBER'S BREWING

HALLOWEEN

PUMPKIN CARVING
WEDNESDAY 28th OCTOBER 10AM

A fun-filled morning for the kids, with bacon rolls and coffees, pre-booking required

HALLOWEEN PARTY
SATURDAY 31st OCTOBER

Get Your Spook On! Live Music, Fancy Dress & Halloween Fun All Night!

BANGERS & BEERS
EVERY TUESDAY FROM 5.30PM

Delicious sausages, mash, market vegetables and onions gravy paired with your favourite beer, what more do you need in the autumnal months?!

BREWERY TOUR
TUESDAY 13th OCTOBER

We're taking a trip to Gloucester and you're invited! Meeting at Cam & Dursley train station at 12pm for the 12:11 train to Gloucester, to enjoy a day of all things beer!

VEGAN EVENING
MONDAY 19th OCTOBER

Vegans unite!

Our kitchen is cooking up a Vegan takeover menu on the evening of the 19TH October! Intrigued? So are we! Book your spot now!

QUIZ NIGHT
MONDAY 12th OCTOBER

Dursley Pride

MONDAY 26th OCTOBER

S.H.A.P.E

Book your team of 6 'Quizzards' in now! Cheeseboards available for pre order!
7pm for 7.30pm Start

COMMUNITY WALK
SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER

Might have to pack the wellies for this one! Let's enjoy the great outdoors with a Sunday walk in the Cotswolds! Meet at The Old Fox at 1pm, to then return at 4:30pm for a famous Fox roast!

The Old Fox
01453 890905
@oldfoxcoaley

CHRISTMAS IS COMING....
Our Christmas party menu is running from Friday November 23rd - Saturday 19th December, get in touch to book in.

NOVEMBER sneak peek
-Xmas Wreath Making - Weds 25th November - 11am
-Pies & Pints

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 cllr.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