

Coaley Parish NEWSLETTER

Issue no 131

August / September 2023



Summer Fete

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
9th Sept	Film Night	7.00pm	Hall
29th Sept - 1st Oct	Flower and Harvest Festival		Church

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
Saturday 16th September 2023.**

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: Tug of war at the Village Fete.

NATURE NURTURE NEW CHAIRMAN

After five years in the role Stephen Cook has stepped down as Parish Council Chairman. Martin Percy has been elected as the new chairman.

RECREATION GROUND SURVEY

Between now and the end of September, members of the Coaley Rec Action Group (CRAG) will be conducting a brief survey of the usage of the rec. This will mainly involve recording the number and location of people on the rec during a given time period but we might sometimes approach people for more information.

The survey will allow us to better understand the usage of specific areas, such as the play equipment or pump track, as well as more general use. This will then inform parts of funding applications and help to ensure that future design plans don't overlook important needs and wants of the community.

If you have any questions, or would be interested in getting involved in the rec ground redevelopment, please do not hesitate to contact us at: coaleyrecactiongroup@gmail.com. We are particularly keen to hear from younger members of the village!

HIGHWAY WOES

Peak Lane is in a sorry state at the moment. The parish council have reported the problems to Gloucester County Council Highways and were

amazed to get a report back that no problem was found. We responded with photographs of at least twenty holes and they have sent a safety inspection team to do a full report. The problem we have is that they only consider a hole deeper than 40mm to be worth repairing. Unfortunately common sense doesn't seem to guide their repair strategy. They make no allowance for potholes near each other, the general state of the road or the fact that once the repair team are there it is a minor extra expense to do a thorough job.

We encourage people to report potholes or any other highways problems using the County Council website. Please don't hope someone else will do it. The more complaints they get the more likely they are to do something about it.

We get very poor service from the highways dept generally. We have been trying for nearly a year to get them to provide some signs to direct cars that would otherwise park on the street to the council car park at the rear of the village hall.

We've also been trying to get them to provide signs to prevent large vehicles using the lane to Uley. We have two documented instances of lorries getting stuck on this lane but that doesn't seem to be enough. Please, if you see an unsuitable vehicle using a lane, take a photograph and send it to the Parish Council.

Gas repairs

Tennis Courts

Produce Show

WHO OWNS COALEY COMMUNITY SHOP?

Coaley Community Shop has been trading for 20 years this year. As the long term village residents will know, it started as a result of the village appraisal carried out by the parish council in 1996, which showed great demand for a shop, as there had not been one for several years. The parish council chairman got together a group of villagers to try and start a community shop. They formed the Coaley Shop Association with membership open to all villagers on a single payment of £10. It took a lot of hard work, fund-raising and negotiating with authorities before they achieved their goal. The primary school gave them an old terrapin building and a site was rented from the Village Hall committee. The shop finally opened in 2003.

The past 20 years have seen many changes both in the village and in the way we shop. The building became increasingly scruffy despite our efforts to improve it, and it was also too small to accommodate the services, particularly the social centre we wanted to offer. In 2018 the members decided to try to replace it with an energy efficient, green new building. With amazing support from the residents of Coaley and local businesses both in fundraising and building it, the new shop opened in 2021.

It is still run by the Coaley Shop

Association which now has about 130 members. It is still only a one-off payment of £10 to join. Members have a vote at the Annual General Meeting and can stand for election to the committee. We would love to have more new members to ensure we remain representative, and continue to provide what the village needs from its shop. Membership forms will be available in the shop in August.

This year the AGM is on Saturday September 16th at 10am in the Jubilee room at the Village Hall. To celebrate our 20 years of trading we are offering a loyalty scheme to members of a free hot drink every month.

SAVE THE DATE

MacMillan Coffee morning in the Village Shop

10-12 Saturday 23rd September 2023

Cake donations would be welcome.

Please join us.

PLAYGROUP

We are now at the end of another school year and this year has zoomed by so quickly. We wish all of our preschoolers lots of luck for big school and look forward to welcoming some of our children back in September along with some new faces that will be joining us.

We just want to say a huge thank you to everyone within the community that's had helped us this year whether

it has been organising, helping out or attending a fundraising event or with things we have needed help with at playgroup, we really appreciate it!

The sheep hunt will be returning in September so please save the date of Sunday 17th September.

If you would like to get in touch with us about a space for your child or how you can help with any of the fundraising events please contact us via

email - coaleyplaygroup@gmail.com or telephone-07434364850

VILLAGE FETE

The Coaley Village Fete on 24th June, was a wonderful afternoon for all. "It was the best event in the village for many years" someone said on leaving and "I couldn't believe it was all free" was posted on Facebook.

There was a full programme of games, entertainment and attractions, something for everyone to bring people together.

Villagers, with friends and family, arrived to the sound of the church bells, the Rec looked resplendent and was a hive of activity, with games, a stage, marquees and the arena decked out in colourful bunting.

To play and test peoples' skills, there was: splat the rat, a coconut shy, tin can alley, quoits, pick up sticks, boules, putting, corn hole and welly wanging.

There was a popular hog roast, the Old

Fox bar and time to relax in the warm sunshine and enjoy local bands playing well known tunes.

For children, there were treasure hunt clues to find, an inflatable tractor to bounce and climb on, a visiting fire engine, an original story to hear and fun races like egg and spoon and sack, to run with their friends.

Taking a break from the exertion, there was time to enjoy the WI's delicious tea and cakes and to see the 'Past & Present' films and displays, spotting some familiar places and faces and appreciate the history of Coaley.

Dog owners proudly paraded their canine friends around the arena in various classes, in pursuit of the elusive best in show rosette!

The day was rounded off with the presentation of prizes for the Fanciest Fox decorated by the children, followed by the Welly Wanging finals to find champions. Finally, we had the Coaley Village Tug of War team cups: 'Fitmitz' prevailed this year in the adult category, taking the cup from 'No Mercy', who we hear are back in training already!

Full results will be published on the village Facebook page for everyone to see.

The day was all held together by our excellent compère - he knows who he is!

A film of the day is now available; if you'd like a copy please email me.

Let us know what you think went well and also the things which could have been even better, emailing me at lscmptn@btinternet.com, or maybe you'd like to get involved next time.

The fête committee would like to thank all of the people who helped, the village groups that supported us and our sponsors for their generosity.

Next year, we'll have Coaleyfest to look forward to, with the idea going forward that each becomes a biennial event.

WI

In May Coaley WI had a fascinating talk from Crime scene investigator Hayley Scott. Hayley spent 14 years with the Metropolitan police where she was a forensic scientist. She worked on over 15,000 crime scenes and all sorts of crimes including burglaries, rape and murder. One case she worked on was solved from an initial break with a discarded cigarette butt providing DNA evidence. Hayley talked about the differences between fingerprint patterns and how CSI look for finger marks at crime scenes (not fingerprints which are intentionally taken). Reports are written at the scene as comprehensively as possible as it can be years before a case comes to court and its not always easy to remember details. Hayley now has her own business giving talks about CSI work and also runs events such as parties on a CSI theme. It was good to see visitors and members enjoying the evening.

We also introduced a survey asking

about people's hobbies and interests which will help us plan future programmes and events.

June saw members and friends board a coach for a trip to Laithwaites in Gloucester for a private wine tasting event with bubbly and red and white wines sampled.

It was great to have good weather for the fete and we always enjoy the opportunity to set up our cafe. With plenty of helpers it meant we also had time to participate in the days activities and socialise. Thank you for supporting our stall and for your positive feedback.

Thank you also goes to all of those who worked hard to make the day so enjoyable.

SCHOOL

What a super busy term it has been at Coaley Primary Academy! We always love the summer term, with the excitement of the holidays and changes ahead. Of course, we say a fond farewell to our delightful Year 6's and wish them all the best on their next exciting adventure, but we also look forward to welcoming new children into the school in reception and into other years too. Our school is definitely growing but we will always continue to have our unique Coaley family feel to be a place where everyone can flourish.

First of all, thank you for all the ideas we received from the village to help us look towards our new school vision. We



had lots of ideas from our opening morning in the church in June and from

the village fete in July. Lots of words, phrases and ideas came up to help

describe how we want the school to be and what our school is all about. We are busy sifting and clarifying through all your ideas so we can move forwards as one, ensuring that our school continues to shine brightly in the community.

We are also very excited that our 'Telephone Box' lending library is up and running at last! We hope that many of you have been using it and the children of the village have somewhere to borrow, replace and return books and toys whenever they want to. It is being regularly updated and replenished by the school council, to make sure that there continues to be lots of great reads and fun toys. Please continue to use it as a wonderful community resource.

As we near the end of term, and get ready for the summer, it is often a time to take your foot off the pedal ,ready for some well-earned rest and relaxation for the staff and children. However, at school, we are having some building work undertaken, to bring the school entrance into the 21st century. The school office is being moved and the library is replacing an aging store cupboard; we are also having a small room where we can teach small groups of children, or use to hold more private meetings with parents. It is very exciting and a great way to ensure that our village school remains a safe and brilliant place for your children to come to and learn loads.

PANTO

We are so excited to begin rehearsals

for this year's production of 'Snow White' by Ben Crocker. Following successful casting sessions, all roles have been filled. A huge thank you to everyone who came along!!

Rehearsals will begin Sunday 3rd of September (10am) and will continue weekly on Monday and Friday evenings (7-9pm, Juniors do not need to attend Monday rehearsals) and then Sunday mornings 10-12am.

If you would still like to get involved backstage, it is not too late! From artwork, to being a front of house member on performance nights, to backstage scene shifting there is lots of fun to be had and something for everyone. If you would like to join us, please contact Keri James at: keriatcoaley@btinternet.com

Tickets will be on sale in October so keep an eye on the social medias (Facebook @Coaley Amateur Dramatics Society and Instagram @CoaleyAmateurDramatics) and watch this space for info on how to book.

And here are the performance dates for your diary:

Thursday 23rd of November 7:30pm
Friday 24th November 7:30pm
Saturday 25th November 2:30pm
Saturday 25th November 7:30pm

We can't wait to see you there!

SNAP SNAP

Keep that camera action going and look through your older photographs!

COALEY VILLAGE PLAYGROUP PRESENTS

registered charity no 1088208

Coaley Sheephunt 2023

Sunday 17th Sept 11.00-16.00



LOST IN COALEY!

Buy your map and follow the trail
to find all the lost sheep in Coaley

Join us at the Village Hall for
refreshments, crafts and more.

Cast your vote for best
dressed Sheep 2023



CoaleySheepHunt

The Coaley Calendar this year is going out of the village, we are looking for photographs of Coaley and its surrounds.

Photographs in landscape format need to be sent in as large a format as possible to ensure the sharpest image quality.

Send them to
calendar@coaleyproduceshow.org.uk
not later than October 1st 2023.

FILM NIGHT

Our Film Evenings begin again, in the Village Hall, on Saturday 9th September at 7 for 7.30pm.

We meet in the hall on the second Saturday of the month from September to March.

If you are interested in becoming a member, or would like further information, please contact Lesley Chalmers on 890788.

Members are reminded that their annual membership fee of £25 is due on September 1st.

SARA SHARPNESS LIFEBOAT STATION OPEN DAY

Sunday 6th August 2023

The crew and volunteers of SARA's Sharpness Lifeboat Station are holding their 2023 Open Day on Sunday 6th August. The volunteers of this fantastic local charity need your help and

support on the day so they can continue their important work – going to search and rescue emergencies in all weathers and at any time of the day & night, 365 days a year.

Our lifeboat crews need many skills and they will be demonstrating these on the day. You can try your hand too – with emergency first aid activities; quickly putting on a full set of lifeboat PPE; experiencing a highspeed ride on the River Severn in one of the bigger lifeboats. This is an opportunity to meet the crew, talk to them and get a real understanding of their great work.

There will be a fantastic range of activities to entertain the whole family. Children love the excitement of lifeboats and the Open Day will be a day for them to remember. Kids' activities include: lifeboat rides on our lake; the opportunity to clamber over our bigger lifeboats and talk to the brave crews who search and rescue; challenges for kids and their grownups; kids' quizzes; burgers, cakes and soft drinks! There are quite a few things for adults to do and see as well!

So, please come along and support the lifeboat crew at The Old Dock, Sharpness, GL13 9UB.

Doors open at 10am on the Sunday morning and they expect to finish about 5pm. Parking and entry are free.

NATURE NURTURE

Peregrines are the fastest birds on the planet when they perform their incredible diving 'stoops', 198 mph



St Bartholomew's Church, Coaley

FLOWER FESTIVAL

"HARVEST"

SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER
SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2023

11.00AM - 5.00PM

Refreshments / Raffle / I Spy...
Dedications Available

**FREE ENTRY - DONATIONS TO
COALEY CHURCH**

according to the BTO website. But another bird, the swift, is the speediest bird in level flight. Peregrines use urban environments as the high buildings attract them being the modern equivalents for clifftop sites, with safe nesting situations and plentiful prey. (See Salisbury Cathedral website for camera viewing.) Now is a good time to watch their young honing their hunting skills. So if you have peregrines nesting nearby do remember to listen and look out for the falcon fledglings. Earlier editions of these articles give similar information for about swifts' speeds.

Probably due to poor nesting conditions because of inclement weather earlier in the year some garden birds are having late broods. There is a shortage of food for nestlings as the insect hatchings were also adversely affected by the weather. Providing live mealworms (from local pet shops) will help fledglings to survive. There is an interesting discussion about the world shortage of insects and loss of habitats currently on Al Jazeera TV (Channel 235). Hedgehog hoglets born in May and June can now be seen in some gardens at dusk and they, too, also enjoy a snack of live mealworms as a supplement to their diet of slugs, snails and fallen fruit. Please try to leave them wild spaces and plenty of cover such as fallen leaves, dry grasses and straw (available from pet shops) for them to domesticate. One neighbour who hadn't seen a hedgehog in her garden for at least five years now has three hoglets which visit in the

gloaming for their supper of live mealworms, after which they set off in different directions to forage. They are the gardeners' best friends as they will keep your veg patches clear of slugs and snails and other pests, so they deserve nurturing. Autumn is not too far away and one thinks of the wonderful sight of starling murmurations. An eminent physicist, Giorgio Parisi, (Nobel 2021 Prize winner) has called his recently published book 'In a Flight of Starlings', he writes "Ideas are often like murmurations – they start moving in one direction and end up in another", thus great discoveries are often passed by to be discovered later by others. The book's title is based on the physicist's work in trying to compute the starlings' flight patterns where each bird is aware of its neighbours' movements and the comparisons have helped to increase his own wisdom as applied to Physics. Otis Tarda

Friday 29th September 2023

CHEESE AND WINE PREVIEW EVENING

“CELEBRATING HARVEST”



TICKETS £7.00 - 07779428898

Join us in celebrating
the autumn harvest with friends,
food, and more!

ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH - COALEY



USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish Councillors	Martin Pearcy	890818
	Ben Bywater	07909 545303
	Stephen Cook	860504
	Caroline Eardley	890139
	John Hobson	07715 558110
	Penny Wait	860191
Parish Clerk	Lynn Thornton clerk@coaleypc.org.uk	545880
Stroud District Councillor	Martin Pearcy cllr.martin.pearcy@stroud.gov.uk	890818
GCC Councillor	Wendy Thomas wendy.thomas@gloucestershire.gov.uk	
Vicar	Graham Stacey	709859
Village Hall	Lesley Chalmers	890788
Need a lift to Coaley Church?		
Co-ordinator	Isobel Farmer	890556
Tree Warden	Stephen Cook	860504
Snow Warden	Jonathan Leigh	860665
	coaleysnowwarden@gmail.com	07767 660206
Neighbourhood Watch	Ken Wibberley	890449
Community Shop		899000
Coaley WI	June Dunlop	890302
Friendship Group	Pam Sweetland	890513
ST Emergency Water & Sewage Centre (24 hr)		0800 7834444
Gas Emergency Leaks etc (24 hr)		0800 111999
Electricity Loss of Supply (24 hr)		0800 6783 105 or 105
Street Lights		08000 514514
Community Wellbeing Service (was Village Agent)	communitywellbeing.stroud@nhs.net	0345 8638323