

Coaley Parish NEWSLETTER

Issue no 142

June / July 2025

Recreation Ground Paths open
Coaley Country Fete

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
3rd June	Friendship	2.30 pm	Outing
5th June	Knitting	2.30 pm	Mill Court
7th June	Bell ringing competition	11.15 am – 4.45 pm	Church
9th June	Whist	2.00 pm	Hall
14th June	BioBlitz		
27th June	Gardens' Cup entries closing date		
28th June	Coaley Country Fete	11 am – 4 pm	Rec
1st July	Friendship	2.30 pm	Hall
3rd July	Knitting	2.30 pm	tba
6th July	Gardens' Cup Judging	2.00 pm onwards	
8th July	Neighbourhood watch open meeting	7.00 pm	Hall
12th July	Nature Morning: Bees	10 am – 12 noon	Hall
14th July	Whist	2.00 pm	Hall
2nd Aug	Bat Evening	tba	

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
Wednesday 16th July 2025.**

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: Mayflower and bluebells by Mike Davis

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CRAG UPDATE OPEN MEETING

**Tuesday July
8th at 7 pm in
the village hall**

Coaley Parish Council are seeking to gain support from residents to restart the Neighbourhood Watch scheme in the village. This meeting is open to anyone in the village who is interested finding out about how a scheme is operated and those who may wish to be involved in reforming a small team. The village remains registered but needs a team to use this in supporting residents in crime prevention and crime recovery.

Through the scheme advice on crime prevention can be received and passed on to residents, it provides a route into the police and there can be some direct police engagement through community policing initiatives. There is a scheme to provide discounts on security alarms and locks to residents. With the rise in phone/email/social media scams provide advice on how residents can protect themselves and report such incidents.

As with most things, the more effort that we are able to put into this the more the village will get out of it. So please come along and find out more.

Coaley Parish Council.



Spring Highlights

You may have seen our Spring update, but if not—don't worry! Here are the highlights of what's been happening in and around the Rec and much more!

Paths and Plaza Complete

The new paths and plaza are now officially finished! They're already proving popular with walkers, joggers, children and families, and visitors, offering easier access and creating a welcoming hub for activities.



Official Opening Success

We marked the opening of the plaza and paths with a celebratory event on a beautiful day over the Easter holidays. The community came out in force to explore, relax, and take part in activities across the space. To celebrate the transformation, the paths were officially opened by local teenage footballers from the village, adding a brilliant community touch to the occasion. We were also joined by St John Ambulance, who hosted engaging activities and shared valuable first aid advice with visitors.

Events in Bloom

Spring brought a season full of community engagement and fun with our sell out Murder Mystery Evening, another popular Quiz Night, three successful Nature Mornings including a nature walk, bug hunt and visit from Gloucestershire's branch of Butterfly Conservation. Thank you to everyone who has helped make these events a huge success.

Garden Growth and Play Additions

Our planting group has been busy! The new sensory garden at the entrance is now fully planted and we can't wait to see it flourish. Visitors will also notice the addition of young trees, benches, stepping stones, and our favourite current feature for the kids—mud hills! These will eventually be seeded and create a wonderful additional aesthetic to the space.





Toddler Park

Now that the paths and sensory garden has been completed it's full steam ahead raising funds for the children park. This got off to a great start with children from the school raising a remarkable £550 doing a fun run and cake sale. Crag will be making more grant applications during the summer and any offers of help with this will be welcome.

Welcome to Our New Team Members

A warm welcome to Millie Jotham, who has joined CRAG as Treasurer, and Tom Fawcus-Gibbs, who is stepping into the role of Project Manager. We're excited about the skills and energy they bring to the committee.

Upcoming Events – Join Us!

Friday 14th June – BioBlitz

Discover the wildlife of the green space in this community-led nature survey.

Saturday 12th July – Nature Morning: Bees! 10:00 am – 12:00 noon in the Village Hall

Learn about bees from the Stroud Beekeepers Association and enjoy hands-on bee-themed activities for all ages.

Saturday 2nd August – Bat Evening
An enchanting evening walk to explore the world of bats. Booking info will be shared soon.

Thank You

Whether you've come to an event, helped with planting, made a donation, or simply enjoyed a stroll along the new paths—thank you. This is your space, and together, we're making it better than ever.

– The CRAG Team



SCHOOL UPDATE

In the blink of an eye, Spring Term came to end with Owls Class delivering a wonderful Easter Collective Worship and the whole school immersing themselves in the story of Easter during our Experience Easter sessions in Church.

During Spring Term, six pupils wrote passionately about their interest in becoming a play leader to facilitate sports and activities at lunchtimes. Since their appointment, they have received some training from a sports coach and have started organising games to add a little structure to our lunchtimes. The feedback from their peers has been fantastic and we are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, organisation and dedication they have demonstrated.

At Coaley, we are aspirational about creating a culture of justice and responsibility to enable our pupils to make ethical choices and be agents of change. We want our children to be inspired by issues that matter most to them and make a positive impact on people's lives and the world we live in. Since January, Purple, Green and Orange House have been working collectively to think about partnerships within our community and issues that matter to them. Orange house voted to organise a sponsored fun run and cake sale to raise money for the Coaley Recreation Action Group, CRAG. Les, a member of CRAG, visited school to share the exciting plans for the development and the difficulties

experienced with sourcing funds for the project. The children in Orange House were so inspired to help make this vision a reality as they could see the difference it would make to all members within the community, they chose to help raise more funds. We are delighted to share that Orange House raised an incredible £550.70 from their fun run and cake sale. Les was presented with the funds during the grand reveal in Orange House's worship earlier this term. A huge thank you and well done to all of the staff, children and wider school family for all of their support. You have made a HUGE difference in our community! The children are looking forward to joining Les for a VIP tour of the area later this term to see what the money will help to fund!

The children of Purple House shared their concerns about the increase in dog poo in the local area, often on the path they walk to get into school. As well as this, they have spotted an increase in litter in the area. To help keep Coaley clean and safe, children of Purple House have been busy drafting and designing creative posters to raise awareness of the increase in litter around Coaley village and the increased amount of dog poo not being picked up. They came up with catchy slogans and vibrant designs to capture people's attention and inspire change. Three of the posters will be chosen and displayed around the village.

The children in Green House recognise that Coaley is a growing community and within our community there are



Gloucestershire
Wildlife Trust



BIOBLITZ

What birds, mammals, plants and insects are living at the rec? Join this environmental study!

ALL AGES WELCOME! Novices and nature enthusiasts all encouraged to join!

COALEY REC

**JUNE
14TH
2025**

10am - Birds and Mammals

11am - Hedgerows and trees

12 midday - Grasses and Flowers

1pm - Insects

**Bring a
picnic!**

**Games and
crafts too!**

www.coaleyrec.co.uk

CoaleyRecActionGroup@gmail.com

times when people might be experiencing challenges in their life. Maybe they are lonely, maybe someone has passed away, maybe they are having personal troubles. Green House want to spread a smile in the community through their creative initiative of making bookmarks. The children of Green House are working hard to create bright and colourful bookmarks which they will be sharing with the community to promote a love of reading and spread a smile and joy. We hope this act of kindness will brighten someone's day. Look out for these bookmarks around the village soon!

It was wonderful to come together as a school community to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day on Thursday 8th May. Children kick started the afternoon singing 'Hey Mr Miller' before enjoying their tasty celebratory treats as well as participating in some themed activities on the playground. These included making commemorative bookmarks, designing bunting and participating in traditional British games. It was a wonderful afternoon enjoyed by all!

Earlier this term a group of four pupils represented Coaley at the annual Nature Quiz. They performed incredibly in both the first and second heat of the quiz and came third overall. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and the time they voluntarily invested in revising facts from their nature books. As always, they were fantastic ambassadors for our school.

As always, we would like to thank the whole community for their continuing support,

Jen Thomas
Headteacher

WI

Coaley WI had a fascinating talk from Sue who went on an adventure to Antarctica with a small group of explorers. There were just 35 people on board apart from the crew and they visited many Islands on the way to their destination. They saw 97 bird species and 16 types of mammals and it took 13 days sailing to reach Antarctica. Sue showed us a fascinating video and slide show talking us through the scenes. The seas were treacherous and they could only land if it was safe. One of Sue's most wanted trips was to Scott's hut and they were the only group in the last 3 years to be able to reach it. Her enthusiasm and humour made for a very interesting evening.

In April we heard from the Night Angels/safe space. Chrissie founded the organisation having been a victim of domestic abuse and wanting to help others. The organisation works in Stroud, Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury and will soon be in Swindon. Night angels are fully trained volunteers who patrol the towns and cities on Friday and Saturday nights from 11pm to 4 am providing support and guidance to vulnerable people and making sure they get home safely. They work closely with the police who are often working in the same areas. A

safe space is a business or premise where anyone can walk in and ask for help, the staff are trained in what to do to support the individual and the premises are clearly marked for easy identification. There are approx. 60 volunteers and this year so far they have dealt with 257 incidents.

Nationally the WI run a campaign each year on a matter that is voted on by members. This year the campaign is Bystanders Can be Lifesavers

With over 30,000 out of hospital cardiac arrests a year in the UK and less than one in ten people survive, the WI aim to increase public confidence & training in CPR and to work with local organisations to help to improve access to defibrillators in their communities to give every person the best chance of surviving a cardiac arrest.

The plant swap was once again a huge success this year and our cafe was busy throughout the event making a profit of £750. Thank you to everyone who supported us and enjoyed the cakes.

Our memberships were renewed in April and we were delighted to welcome new members to the group. Our fundraising work throughout the year means we are able to subsidise our membership cost to £37 (recommended charge is £51) and new memberships are accepted throughout the year pro rata. This includes a national magazine, regional newsletter and monthly meetings with wine/drinks

on arrival and a speaker. Visitors are always welcome.

May 21st — My Life on the Severn
An illustrated talk by Chris Witts based on his working life on the River Severn during the 1960s and 1990s.

June 18th — Everhot 6.30pm
A visit to Everhot with a walk in the grounds where much conservation work is in progress.

July 16th — Purton Hulks
Maritime historian & author Paul Barnett shares his knowledge of the Purton Hulks, a maritime time capsule containing 86 vessels.



It was our birthday in April and this is our new president Liz cutting the cake with Pat our longest serving member.

June Dunlop
Secretary
email: coaleywi@hotmail.com



DOG SHOW



CHILDRENS RACES



WI TEA & CAKE



BOUNCY CASTLE

COALEY COUNTRY

SATURDAY 11AM - 4PM
COALEY RECREATION CENTRE

FREE

JOIN OUR WONDERFUL DAY OF FUN, GAMES, FOOD, DRINK
WITH GRATEFUL THANKS TO



**COALEY
COMMUNITY FETE**

**28TH June
10am - 4pm
COALEY RECREATION GROUND**

FREE ENTRY

**BRING A FRIEND, A DRINK AND MUCH MORE!
THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS**



GUIDED WALKS WITH COTSWOLD WARDENS

There are a number of warden-led walks coming up within easy reach of Coaley. There is no need to book and there is no charge for the walks but there is a box for a voluntary contribution towards materials for our work on footpath maintenance. Walks start usually at 10.00 am & will return to the starting point. A packed lunch is advisable. Sadly, no dogs allowed, but dog walkers could find attractive self-guided walks on the website. Additional details are on the Cotswold National Landscape (formerly AONB) website. <https://www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk/exploring/guided-routes/>

Crickley Hill

Friday, 6th June, start 10am

3 miles / 4.83 km

Duration: 1.5 to 2 hours

Difficulty: Easy, stile free

Start from Crickley Hill Country Park, Crickley Hill, Birdlip, GL4 8JY

OS Grid Ref SO929162

What3Words aboard.engrossed.lads.

There is a £2.00 car parking charge.

This is another of our series of Shorter and Steadier walks to introduce new walkers to the splendour of our glorious countryside and the sheer joy of walking in the countryside.

Owlpen, Uley

11th June, start 10am

6.5 miles / 10.46 km

Duration: 4.0 hours

Difficulty: Strenuous

Start from the Rose and Crown pub, Front Street, Nympsfield. GL10 3US.

OS Grid Ref SO 800 005

What3Words

walking.bearings.undertone

Stonehouse to Ebley Mill

Tuesday, 17th June, start 09.30

5.5 miles / 8.85 km

Duration: 3 to 3.5 hours

Difficulty: Easy

Start from Stonehouse Car Park, High Street, Stonehouse GL10 2NG

OS Grid Ref SO806054

What3Words wool.hoofs.disbelief

This is a circular walk from Stonehouse free car park along the canal to Ebley Mill for a coffee break (café available). Then a cross-country walk back to Ocean Bridge nature reserve on the canal, then back to the car park. The car park is free, but only for 4 hours.

Stroud

Tuesday, 24th June start 10.00

7.5 miles / 12.07 km

Duration: 4.5 hours,

Difficulty: Moderate

Start from The Old Chapel, Middledy, Leonard Stanley.

Please park courteously on Broad Street, Middledy. Please note the Old Chapel is privately owned so do not park directly outside.

OS Grid Ref SO 820 03

What3Words

educated.bedrock.valuables

The Old Fox, Coaley presents



SAUSAGE AND CIDER

Fox FEST

◆ 2025 ◆

18th-20th JULY



20 Local Ciders

MUSIC

Brilliant Bangers

◆ ALWAYS TIME FOR A SWIFT HALF ◆

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING COALEYROCKS!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who came along to support our 5th CoaleyRocks! Thanks to your generosity, we raised an impressive £1,200 in aid of Coaley Village Playgroup.

The 90s/00s-themed live music event was opened by local rising stars Reminiscence, who delivered a stunning set of tunes from across the decades. We're incredibly grateful to the band for joining us — they're quickly building a loyal following, performing at venues and events throughout the county. One day, we'll be proudly saying, "They played right here in Coaley when they were just starting out!"

The evening continued with nostalgic

hits from Crates Disco, followed by a high-energy set from the Bohemian Bar Thieves, fronted by our own playgroup chair, Susy.

A big thank you to Mama's Woodfired Pizza for keeping musicians and partygoers well fed — and for their generous donation to our fundraising total. We're also deeply grateful to the amazing volunteers from both the playgroup and wider community who ran the bar, set up, and helped clear the hall at the end.

Special thanks go to:

- Tim Moore, for providing the PA system and handling the tech for the Bar Thieves.
- Olin, for managing sound for Reminiscence.
- Annie Ford, who spent the entire



day at the hall setting up, arranging tables, stringing up CDs — and then ran the bar all night, even staying to lock up.

- Stephen Cook, for setting up the lighting and performing the now-traditional ceremonial hanging of the disco ball!
- Coaley Community Shop, for kindly selling tickets for us up to the event.

We were lucky to be joined by two talented photographers this year — Mike Davis and Simon Pizzey — whose wonderful photos captured the spirit of the evening beautifully.

Huge thanks to The Fox and Highfields Garden Centre for kindly donating raffle prizes. Your continued support means the world to us.

Congratulations to Verity Kologlu, winner of the Best 90s/00s Outfit





competition — the inflatable boom box sealed the deal! Honourable mention goes to our very own playgroup manager Sarah and the rest of the Spice Girls; if not for the boom box, the title would have been yours!

and every one of you who joined us — we couldn't have done it without your support.

Coaley Rocks, indeed. Thank you and goodnight!

Events like CoaleyRocks are vital to the fundraising efforts of Coaley Playgroup. We're so grateful to each



Sharpness Lifeboat

OPEN DAY

SHARPNESS LIFEBOAT STATION

SUNDAY 29TH JUNE

10:00 – 16:00

Other Exciting Activities:
Face painting
Food & Refreshments
Coastguard
Gloucester model boat club
Crafts & stalls

Event Highlights

**BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY TO
MEET THE CREW, WATCH THE
DEMONSTRATIONS, AND
HAVE A BOAT RIDE.**

Join Us for a
Spectacular
Family Fun
Day!

**Address:
GL13 9UB**

SARA
Severn Area Rescue Association

FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.SARA-RESCUE.ORG.UK



COALEY PLANT SWAP

The spring was really warm this year providing ideal growing conditions and there was an abundance of plants: a super range of fruits, flowers, vegetables, shrubs and herbs. There was some accessories too. The pots and vases were very popular too!

There was a new stall at Whitehaven for the first time.

A large number of children, families and friends came out in their droves from Coaley and many areas of the County.

The delicious WI tea and home made cakes were so popular the members had to do an extra over-night bake to cope with the demand. The new rec looked a picture and people spilled out onto the picnic tables.

We were joined by CRAG (Coaley Recreation Action Group) who had a fab raffle raising funds for the children's park on the recreation ground.

At the end of the swap the remaining plants were given to the Watershed Riding for Disabled charity who was organising an event in June.



The swap was a resounding success raising over £2000 to support local groups.

The feedback was positive! *"The swap was a fabulous event. Thank you so much coaley plant swap organisers, I know how hard you've all worked."*

Thank you to everyone who came along, set up stalls, supplied and swapped plants. A special thanks to some of the prolific growers who provide hundreds of plants every year including: Duncan, David, Pat, Jean, Fiona & Suzie.

The Coaley Garden Cup for 'The Best Flowering Plant in my Garden' deadline for entries 7 June 2024.

For more information about the Coaley Produce Show go to:
coaleyproduceshow.org.uk

NURTURE NATURE

SUMMER VISITORS

House Martins: (*Delichon urbica* – 12 cms) These lovely migrant birds fly from Africa to nest in the British Isles, many in our area. They spend a long time making their mud nests under the eaves of houses. Please be tolerant of their building habits. The birds do not cause too much mess and they become distressed if all their hard work is destroyed. If house martins cannot raise their broods, yet another species will be endangered. According to the RSPB their population has halved since 1969, and they are now on the Red List

Sand Martins: (*Riparia riparia* – 12 cms)

These migrants can be seen from April to September especially around sand quarries and sandy banks, where they burrow out their nesting sites. Many of their ancestral breeding sites have gone. In some East Anglian areas the local ornithological groups have had built artificial banks for nesting which are well used. A good place locally to see them is Frampton-on-Severn sailing lake. Plumage is sandy brown above and whitish below. These agile fliers make harsh twitter calls in flight.

Swallows: (*Hirundo rustica* – 20 cms) These beautiful birds always return to their old nest sites, so please ensure access to them. If, for reasons of security, access has to be shut, swallows will fly through small openings in order to reach their traditional nesting sites.

Swifts: (*Apus apus* – 18cms) Their nesting sites, some of which are centuries old, are fast disappearing, due to development and property maintenance. They require an access tunnel of at least 18" long with a small entrance hole; please don't block them off. Swifts are believed to spend as much as nine months to a year on the wing, and they are known to nap whilst flying. Swifts were added to the Red List in the 2021 UK Conservation Status Report.

Otis Tarda

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	860665
		07767 660206
	coaleysnowwarden@gmail.com	
Community Shop		899000
Coaley WI	June Dunlop	890302
Friendship Group	Pat Grimwood	890689
	and Isobel Farmer	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