

Coaley Parish NEWSLETTER

Issue no 114

October / November 2020



Shop Hours Extended

Village Hall AGM

School News

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE	CONTACT
Oct 8th	Village Hall AGM	7.30 pm	Zoom	Tony Eve

Please see the related article in the newsletter for details.

Parish Council meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month, except August, at 7.30pm. In normal circumstances they are held in the Jubilee Room but during the coronavirus crisis they are held using a Zoom video conference.

If you wish to make a contribution to the meeting, as you would have done in the open forum part of a conventional meeting, please contact the clerk by 4pm on the day of the meeting. You can either email any contribution or we will send you a meeting code so you can join us. If you are unable to use Zoom please get in touch and we will consider how best to include you in the meeting.

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 2020.

email: newsletter@coaleypc.org.uk

web: www.coaleypc.org.uk

facebook: [coaleypc](https://www.facebook.com/coaleypc)

This issue edited by Stephen Cook.

Cover picture: This handsome chap from Twyning Ash was seen peering over a hedge watching passers by.

VILLAGE NEWS

COVID-19 CRISIS

The parish council's mutual support scheme remains in place and has continued to provide help to a few residents. As we go to press the number of covid-19 cases is increasing and the government rules are changing. We can expect more help to be required over the next few months.

If you or someone you know needs help then please get in touch with us using the details in the box below.

VILLAGE HALL RESTRICTIONS

The Village Hall is still open. The new government "Rule of Six" has meant another rethink of how to keep going.

Keep Fit classes eg : Pilates are exempt from the rule as long as Social Distancing and Covid protocols are maintained.

Social Gatherings can take place in groups of 6, with each group separated by 2 metres. This allows a maximum of 18 people in the main hall. Activities such as parties, bazaars etc cannot be held. A risk assessment including how the Rule of Six will be enforced is needed before a booking can be confirmed. The Hall Committee can refuse a booking if the risk assessment is not deemed acceptable.

The Jubilee Room is not available for booking.

Drinks can be served from the bar area but food must be individually wrapped portions. Buffets are not permitted.

Enquiries for bookings can be made through the booking clerk. Full details of conditions will be sent on making an enquiry and confirmed when a satisfactory Risk Assessment has been done.

Need help while self-isolating?



web

www.coaleypc.org.uk/ineedhelp



email

help@coaleypc.org.uk



phone

890629 (8am-noon)
860191 (noon-4pm)
07703 468422 (4pm-8pm)

SCHOOL REPORT

First of all, I want to say a HUGE hello to everyone in Coaley Village. I have been made to feel so welcome by all the parents, children and staff at Coaley C of E Primary Academy and we've got off to a cracking start! It's literally been quite an amazing year. Here's a brief summary of a few things that we've got up to.



First of all, we decided to update the school logo to better reflect the ambition and direction that the school is going in. The children were involved in creating it and we got the help of a real-life illustrator who gave up his time for free to help with the design. Our logo now shows our love of reading, learning and growing, and of course our close connection with St Bartholomew's Church.

Our brilliant PTA (Friends Of Coaley School - FOCS) also made a very sizable contribution to our new

playground. The new surfaces and theatre acting stage looks fantastic and the children have loved using it. This was made possible because of the legendary Coaley-Fest which we all hope will make a welcome return next year.



We've also got a new library thanks to the School House Trust who funded the wonderful new space for the children to dive in and get lost in a good book. It's bright, colourful and this year we're adding some brand new books for the children to love.



The school continues to go from strength to strength and we've now expanded to three classes. We're also

looking at wrap-around care for later this year, to offer breakfast and after-school club in school for 5-days a week. We also are working closely with Coaley Playgroup so that we can offer all the families in Coaley the very best education to all of your children. Coaley is now an ambitious school with a big heart and it's an exciting place to learn.

If anyone would like to visit our school, we do have some places in some year groups. I'd love to show you around so you can get the same buzz that we do about learning at Coaley.

Mr Richard Lucas
Executive Headteacher

COALEY COMMUNITY SHOP

Shop opening times are now:

Monday to Friday 9am to 1.30pm
 3pm to 5pm

Saturday and Sunday 9am to 12 noon

Thanks to all our volunteers, both returnees and new recruits, who are making it possible for us to open for more time. Some of the afternoon sessions in particular are proving popular.

The shop now has good protective measures in place, with masks or visors for staff and screens at the till, with regular cleaning. We would be very pleased if anyone else is interested in joining our team of volunteers. We normally work for a

couple of hours once a fortnight.

We are still delivering groceries for anyone in the village needing help because of Covid isolation. Phone the shop on 899000 between 9 and 12 Monday to Friday if you would like a delivery.

The shop is owned by the Coaley Shop Association, currently formed 140 local residents who have invested a one-off payment of £10. New members are very welcome. Please ask for a form in the shop.

Our major fund-raising efforts last year for the replacement shop have been successful. Also, during the pandemic we have received several donations from grateful customers, which are much appreciated. We are now in a good financial position to proceed with the project, and we are expecting to start building this Autumn.

WIVES FELLOWSHIP

The Group met on September 2nd. Sadly, because of the Coronavirus restrictions, it is difficult to organise speakers and with face coverings it is difficult to communicate, so it was decided to close the group.

Remaining funds will be divided between the Village Hall, the Community Shop and Friends of Coaley Church. Many thanks to those who have attended and kept the group going till now.

OSSIE GORING & GORDON FARMER

Two long-term Coaley residents and previous neighbours, Gordon Farmer and Ossie Goring, have died within the last three months.

Ossie has left his beloved Coaley Mill after nearly 60 years. He died of Sepsis after a decade coping with Parkinson's.

Ossie moved to Dursley from Staines in his 20's and became an apprentice at RA Listers, including a stint in Egypt. During this period he made many lifelong friends, joined Young Farmers, met Margaret and bought a semi-derelict Coaley Mill, setting up as an Agricultural Engineer.

His main interests outside his family were his mill, which he largely rebuilt over the years, and small scale water power using the mill stream. Ossie promoted hydro power for 40 years, being a founding member of the British Hydro Society and an acknowledged expert in the field – he was undoubtedly ahead of his time in renewable energy.

Ossie was also very proud to be the inventor of the Everhot Cooker, from which his son Guy has made a successful business, and which is now exported around the world.

Isobel Farmer writes:

We came to Coaley in 1977, as the head office of the company where Gordon worked had moved from

London to Cheltenham. We didn't have much choice in selecting our home, which could have been anywhere in Glos – we needed a fairly large dwelling for nine of us, within our price bracket, and within travelling distance back to Buckinghamshire. And so it was we found Coaley.

We were welcomed into village life by our neighbours, the Goring family, and members of the Church, and as we had no family in the area we soon became aware of the different local social/sport activities we could join. An early memory is of the village walk up to Coaley Peak, to join in the lighting of bonfires to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee. Oz kindly called in at The Fox & Hounds' off-licence (it was on the left of the building) to buy a box of chocolates, to encourage us on our trek!

Over the years Gordon participated in many events before he had a stroke in 2000, from which he was diagnosed with a pure form of dyslexia. This brought to an end his being a compere at Dursley Male Voice concerts, Chairman at the Church's annual Music Hall, doing a stint editing and



typing the Parish Newsletter, being a Church Warden. There had been a second Village Appraisal in 1998/99, and under his chairmanship when on the Parish Council new activities for the village were evaluated - resulting in a Rambling Club and an Art Club starting up, and a steering group to plan re-instating the village shop/post office.

With great determination and encouragement he got his speech and writing back and was able to participate in some of his former activities – including being a member of the Cotswold Tyndale Rotary Club, a chorister in the D.M.V.C (and able then to memorise the songs for the concerts!), being a School Governor and an avid supporter of his beloved Ipswich Town Football Club.

The size of our garden and its upkeep were starting to take their toll on Gordon, so in 2003 we 'licked our thumbs' to turn into the next page of our life, and eventually continued to find contentment when we moved into our house in the centre of this friendly and caring village.

In April, pneumonia caused by Covid 19 plus some frailty brought closure to Gordon's life, and may we, his family, express our sincere thanks for the comfort and support felt at receiving so many calls, letters and cards of condolence.

They will be missed by so many, and now rest as neighbours again in the churchyard.

KNITTING GROUP

The Knitting Group has met outdoors since July. Now as colder weather approaches meetings will be held in the Village Hall from 2 to 4pm on the First Thursday of the month.

Because of the Rule of Six those attending will be split into groups of 6 or less with at least 2 metres between each group and all Covid protocols observed.

We have space for a few more to join us to knit, crochet or sew, either for Charity or their own project. Wool, needles and patterns can be provided and beginners helped.

If you are interested in coming along please contact Barbara on 890679 to ensure there is space at the meeting.



WI

The WI continue to meet on zoom and we are all getting better at using the technology. In August, we packed up our chairs and flasks and met in the park for coffee and a chat. It was nice to meet up in person especially with those who dont have access to a computer so we havent seen them for some time. For a brief moment we thought our September meeting would be back in the hall but it wasnt to be so the computers were fired up again for our meeting which was loosely based on Desert Island discs. There was no music playing but we did choose our book and our luxury item . Books included the classics as well as books on gardening and the English Language. Luxury items were adjustable chairs, comfy beds, hand creams, seed packets and electric blankets . Lets hope we never have to put it into practice.

Many of us enjoyed the picnic in the park organised by the Produce Show committee. We really missed getting the china out and organising the cafe, an event we thoroughly enjoy but there were plenty of cakes and drinks to choose from at the Macmillan Coffee stall .

For our October meeting we are still on zoom and are hoping to arrange a guest speaker. You are welcom to join us, we just need your email address to send you the invite or you can contact us on Facebook.

Coaleywi@hotmail.com

Facebook - Coaleywi

June Dunlop
Secretary
Coaley WI

COALEY VILLAGE HALL AGM

THURSDAY 8TH OCTOBER AT
7.30pm VIA ZOOM

One representative from each Village Organisation that uses the Village Hall will be invited to attend the AGM.

Others are welcome but MUST contact Tony Eve at field-end@supanet.com to receive an invitation with the access details. This will be sent out a week before the meeting.

Chairman's Report – 2020

Dear Members of the Village Hall management Committee it is most regrettable that we will have to conduct our Annual General Meeting by Zoom this year on the 8th October at 7.30pm. In these uncertain times the Finance Committee has made the decision to use this format and keep everyone as safe as possible. Secretaries of the registered organisations will receive joining instructions to access the meeting, however if additional members of your Groups wish to view the proceedings please contact me and I will forward them an invitation. The Secretary will circulate the agenda and accounts for your consideration prior to the meeting. As usual only your declared delegate will be able to vote

on the resolutions.

As you may surmise this year has been somewhat chaotic as we have struggled with the corona virus regulations and developing a new thirty-year lease for the Community Shop. Additionally, this year we have completed annual inspections of the air conditioning and emergency systems carrying out a repair to the alarm system power supply on the way. In April we completed the five yearly electrical installation report and tested all the portable appliances. Items for rectification and legislation up-dating were identified and that work was completed by our year end with the exception of some rewiring work which is still out for tender. In our ongoing drive to become carbon neutral we have converted the lighting in the foyer, cloakrooms, store cupboard, stage and stage exit corridor to LED units and as we replace the emergency lighting, we are changing them for LED units also.

As part of our Covid-19 protocols we have tied back the curtains rather than removing them. As the darker nights approach this may be seen as a negative aspect, but it was considered a better option than removing them entirely. The stage backcloth remains in place and users are requested to avoid handling any of the curtains wherever possible.

During the lockdown we have refurbished the property in Quedgeley, and it is now re-let. The costings will fall into the 2020/21 Treasurers Report.

Sadly, I report the demise of the Wives Fellowship Group due to the lack of members able to head up the team. The Group has been active in the Hall Management for twenty years and offered a significant service to the residents of the Village. The Group, in winding up their affairs, have decided to donate one third of their standing balance to the Village Hall for which we are most grateful. We would, of course, preferred it if the group had been able to continue. I take this opportunity to thank those who have headed up the group for their dedication and service to the community, but we all find there is a time to step down. We are a small village and if we want the cohesion of our community to continue to develop, villagers must step up to the plate. Our more senior citizens have carried the can for many years, and it may be time for other members to add a little of their own vigour.

In closing may I thank the Finance Committee who have steered me through a quite challenging year, our booking clerk and cleaner who have both stepped up to the challenges of Covid-19 and to our accountants who have worked with us to establish firm foundations for our financial structure as we move into the new era of property management.

Tony Eve

Chair

Coaley Village Hall Management
Committee

PRODUCE SHOW

Sadly due to Covid we had to cancel the Produce show for the first time in 70 years. We do hope we will be able to have one next September. Instead we had an informal picnic on the Rec, combined with Helen Wilcox's Macmillan cake stall. This was a great chance for a bit of a get-together-people coming dressed in rainbow colours with fancy hats. We had a produce and plant table, Brenda Board and volunteers from the shop kindly opened to provide teas and coffees. Helen raised a fantastic £400 for Macmillan cancer relief.



The Gardens cup competition in August judged "my vegetable garden". There were vegetable gardens big and small, the winner will be announced in the next newsletter.

Next year we have chosen "Spring bulbs in pots or containers" to be judged in March or April 2021. Now is a good time to buy and plant spring bulbs, there are lovely bulbs on sale in many supermarkets and garden centres. There is also the chance to buy bulbs at a discount using the Produce show discount code for the Sutton's seed catalogue.

Catalogues are available at Coaley shop or go to www.suttons.co.uk, the discount code of GS 1062G can be used by any Coaley resident or family member on the paper form, or when ordering by phone or on line. The code can be used as many times as you like. You get 30% discount off seeds and 10% off everything else. The produce show get a donation from Sutton's.

We will be selling our popular Coaley Calendar for 2021. It will be available at Coaley shop or through orders on www.coaleyproduceshow.org.uk. The photos will be familiar and less familiar Coaley scenes and views. We are hoping we will be able to have an illuminated Christmas tree again this year, either by the new shop or next to the building site! Carols at the first lighting up will happen if a social gathering is allowed.

WATER LEAKS

The saga of water leaks on the Ham continues. In the last newsletter we reported that a pressure reducing valve had been fitted which had, at that point, stopped any more leaks appearing. The pressure reduction had also reduced the one remaining leak to a damp patch in the verge which was a vast improvement. Unfortunately it also caused severe supply problems to a few houses and to fix this Severn Trent increased the pressure again with the entirely predictable appearance of further leaks in the water main. In early September they fixed a new leak, leaving the long-standing leak unrepaired. They returned again

COALEY CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK UPDATE



Like many things, the Coaley Climate Action Network (CAN) has been in a hiatus these past few months. However, the group has been forging links with other local groups and the CAN steering group are keen to reset and take forward the priorities identified at the kick off meeting in February 2020. These were:

E-bikes / local transport

Energy efficiency and renewable energy

Waste reduction

Survey of baselining existing behaviors

We hope we will all come out of lockdown with increased intent to support each other to live in a more environmentally friendly way and help avoid catastrophic global warming. Anecdotally, many have appreciated the reduced traffic, slower pace, and thriving wildlife that have come with the Covid-19 lockdown. And despite the many difficulties and sadnesses of the situation, people have also appreciated the renewed sense of community that has flourished in the village. These are good things. We hope that they will inspire and support our efforts in the coming months and years.

Contact email:
lynnthornton01@gmail.com>

in mid September to repair the remaining leak but dug the hole in the wrong place. Water could be seen streaming into the hole from a leak further along the pipe. Now you'd think at this stage they'd keep digging until they found the leak but this appears to be too difficult. They went away, saying someone would return to complete the job. That never happened and in order to reopen the road they just filled in the hole.

We have chased Severn Trent again and they promise they will return.

LUNCH CLUB

Until the current Covid 19 restrictions are lifted the monthly Lunch Club will continue to be suspended. This is due to the limit on the number of people allowed in the kitchen.

SARA

Hello, my name is Liv Thornton, I live in North Nibley and for the past 5 years have been a probationary crew member at the lifeboat station in Sharpness, part of SARA. I first approached SARA to volunteer as part of my Bronze DofE, I gained so much from the experience that I soon hope to become a full member of the team.

The Severn Area Rescue Association (SARA) is the UK's largest independent lifeboat service but is still dwarfed by the RNLI. The RNLI are more widely recognised due to being visible on our beaches and along the coast, helped with a recent TV series documenting their great efforts. SARA's area, the Severn river has the 2nd highest tidal range in the world, which creates its own unique dangers and events, such as flooding and the bore. It is not covered by the RNLI, who only cover as far as Portishead.

At Sharpness, our patch covers the Severn Estuary from the M4 bridges to just north of Gloucester. But SARA, as a whole, covers the area from Newport in the west, along the rivers Wye and Severn to Kidderminster in the north. We operate six lifeboat stations in total and have about 180 crew members. All the crew are volunteers, not only do they crew the boats when there is an emergency tasking but are also responsible for maintenance of the stations and boats in addition to raising funds. All the crew have 'day jobs' and are released at short notice by supportive employers and families. An

example of the work we do is during the Tewksbury Flooding in 2009 and 2019/2020, SARA volunteers from every station worked day and night in order to place sandbags outside houses and rescue vulnerable members of the public for two weeks.

In addition to lifeboat rescues, we provide a Swiftwater and flood-rescue service, locally across Gloucestershire and Worcestershire, as well as for national emergencies. We also operate a land-search team who are often called to look for missing (and often quite vulnerable) persons, recent search areas have included Stinchcombe golf course and Westridge woods.



This has been a difficult time for our crew at Sharpness. Until recently, we have been unable to fully maintain our training, but we have still been attending emergencies throughout the lockdown period. Operationally, we have been as busy as ever. There have been over 30 call outs across the patch since the beginning of lockdown. Our operational crews have been divided into "pods" so that we are not mixing with the whole station crew at

any time. And all our kit has to be decontaminated after a “shout”.

The station we are housed in at Sharpness is a grade 2 listed building, located on and exposed headland on the riverside, meaning that it gets battered by the weather. It now requires urgent repairs. Over the years, the volunteer crew have made running repairs on the station ourselves but the current building state means that now professional help is required. We are initially attempting to raise £25,000 through various fundraising efforts, however, our main source of ad-hoc fundraising is street collection, which is not viable in the current climate. Any donations will help us reach our goal, small or large, please donate at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/SARASharpness2020>

Finally, we are always looking for new crew members, whether for our operational and maintenance teams, or to help with fundraising and raising awareness. If you would like to know more, please contact my fellow crew member, Hugh Inwood, at sharpness.lifeboat@sara-rescue.org.uk.

THE SATURDAY NIGHT CLUB

The Saturday Night film evenings will not restart until the current Covid 19 restrictions on numbers are changed.

LONGFIELD COMMUNITY HOSPICE

Please can you spare a few hours a week volunteering?

We have been providing free community hospice care in Gloucestershire for more than 30 years. By enabling everyone touched by a life limiting illness to benefit from free hospice care, we support people and their loved ones to live well. When the time comes, we enable them to have a choice of dying in the comfort of their own home.



Volunteers are a critical to our ability to provide our services. Brian is one such volunteer. He had counselling when his wife Sue died of breast cancer. After a period of time attending Longfield he met a new partner, Sue. Sue was passionate about Longfield and was also a regular volunteer. Sue sadly fell ill with lung cancer and Longfield were able to support her offering her a wide range of services. After Sue died, Brian wanted to give something back to Longfield and he became a regular volunteer and trustee.

As Brian said, “Longfield is there for everyone, whether you are a patient, carer or a loved one.”

So please would you consider become a volunteer? Whether you are a mum wanting to return to work or are retired and have some free time and would like to meet some new friends, please get in touch.

If you are interested in volunteering, please either call the Hospice (01453 886868 and ask to speak to Volunteer Services), email us at volunteer.services@longfield.org.uk or else look at our website (www.longfield.org.uk) for further details of opportunities.

Your local Hospice needs you. Without your support, we could not provide free care at end of life to patients, carers and families.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish Councillors	Stephen Cook	860504
	Martin Percy	890818
	Ben Bywater	07909 545303
	Caroline Eardley	860139
	John Hobson	07715 558110
	Penny Wait	860191
Parish Clerk	Lynn Thornton clerk@coaley.org.uk	545880
Stroud District Councillor	Jim Dewey cllr.jim.dewey@stroud.gov.uk	860795
GCC Councillor	Loraine Patrick Loraine.Patrick@gloucestershire.gov.uk	07881 581189
Vicar	Rev Sue Greatorex	542547
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
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