

Coaley Parish NEWSLETTER

Issue no 116

February / March 2021

Vaccination update
Parish Plan

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)

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 Tuesday 16th March 2021.

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: *The view from Coaley Peak on a foggy January day.*

VILLAGE NEWS

VACCINATION UPDATE

On December 17th 2020 Covid vaccinations were started at The Vale hospital in Dursley. All the local GP practices who form the Berkely Vale Primary Care Network - Cam and Uley Family Practice, Acorn and Walnut practices at May Lane in Dursley and the Berkeley, Culverhay and Chipping surgeries from Wooton combined to provide one of the first vaccination centres in the UK. This was an incredible feat of rapid planning and deployment of staffing, patient booking, setting up of a new service, recruiting volunteers and learning how to use the complicated and delicate Pfizer vaccine. We have to do all this in as Covid safe way as possible, wearing PPE and keeping contact with patients as brief as possible.

There were days we were pulling our hair out as delivery dates for vaccinations were altered at the last



Ready for action at the Vale Hospital.

minute, causing us to phone several hundred patients a day to book or amend appointments.

Some of you may already have had a dose of Covid vaccination, there are even some people who have had two, as this was the schedule we started to work on, until the decision to delay second doses to give more people protection as soon as possible was taken by the Department of Health.

At the time the newsletter was being sent to the press, we have completed first vaccinations for all our Nursing and residential homes and their staff, all our elderly housebound patients and have offered a vaccine to all patients over 72 years old. Medical staff at the surgeries and at The Vale have also been vaccinated in the hope of keeping staff well and we plan keep the vaccination service running until we have jabbed everyone who wants one. We started with Pfizer vaccines and are now using the Oxford Astra-Zenica one as well. A big frustration is that we have to wait for new supplies of vaccine and are not able to influence the date of deliveries so our service has slowed down this week.

Dr Simon Opher and Dr Taff Probert and other local GPs were instrumental in the setting up and running of the clinic service – you may have seen press articles or TV clips on Points West or You Tube, the Vale has even

been on Canadian TV! We have had huge support from volunteers at GL11 in Cam who have helped patients into the hospital and made sure everyone gets to where they need to be.

The take-up locally has been fantastic – in my surgery we had about 650 patients over 80 and have vaccinated about 97%, only a handful of people declined to have one. Considering these were people for whom getting to the Vale at short notice was likely to have been difficult, everyone made a great effort.

I have spent two days vaccinating – we have teams of five or six vaccinators and up to 10 administrative staff to draw up the vaccine doses and record everything on computers so we can be sure of who has had their dose. It was exhausting as we have been vaccinating more than 600 people per day, it is also really rewarding as all the recipients were delighted to have their vaccine with the hope it brings of protection against Covid-19.

Both vaccines in use appear to be very safe with only minor side effects such as a sore arm or feeling a bit under the weather. Initially we thought we could not use the vaccine for pregnant women or anyone with severe allergies. This is no longer automatically the case so if you have concerns then do speak to your GP or nurse.

If you are wondering how you will be contacted for your vaccination please read on. We hope we will be continuing

to vaccinate all our over 70s and extremely clinically vulnerable (shielding) patients in the next few weeks, then we hope we will have vaccine to immunise all over 50s and people with underlying health issues after that. Initially we had to phone patients individually to book appointments as we couldn't rely on postal deliveries over Christmas. If you are due a vaccination you are now quite likely to receive a text message with a link to book a date and time yourself – if your GP surgery has a mobile telephone number for you. If you download the NHS app on your phone or laptop that is a good way of making sure your surgery have up to date details for you. If you don't use a mobile phone you may either get a letter or a phone call.

GP surgeries would request you don't ring us to ask when you will get your vaccine as we have no control over the speed of the rollout. We will do all we can to give as many doses as quickly as we possibly can, and then will need to repeat it all over again for peoples second dose!

Being involved with the vaccination programme has been a real highlight of the last few months for me. I had the chance to meet some neighbours and Coaley residents. Lots of people had barely left their homes for months. Everyone was so cheerful and pleased to have the chance to be vaccinated. Many declared it was a great Christmas present!

Dr Marion McDowell

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Lockdown is back and there is no prospect of return to normal life for several months. Our community support volunteers remain available to help people shielding or self-isolating. Please see the panel inside the front cover for contact details.

DEVELOPING THE COALEY PARISH PLAN 2021 TO 2026

The Coaley Parish Council are beginning to work on a new village parish plan, the last plan was back in 2005 and is severely out of date. So why do we need to refresh our plan?

- To understand our parish dynamics.
- To inform Local Planning decisions in the village.
- To help access funding for community projects.
- To identify our local assets and help preserve these.
- To support our carbon neutral commitment by 2030.
- To set out priority tasks to improve community life and well-being in the village.

The Parish Council want to find out from its residents, businesses, and organisations what you believe are the key issues we ought to be tackling over the next five years.

We had hoped to arrange initial community engagement events early in



2021, but the continued restrictions necessary to combat Covid-19 mean these cannot take place until late spring or early summer. These events, when they can take place, will be to:

- gather what ideas people have about how issues can be tackled, and what ideas people have of how we can get people involved in the process;
- understand community expectations;
- agree approach to gathering views from across the village;
- be clear about what the Parish Council may be able to achieve.

The collective views will then be reviewed, prioritised and realistic targets set within the plan to meet the ambitions of the village.

In the meantime, for those interested in being involved or would like a copy of the previous parish plan to get an idea of what is involved please contact parishplan@coaleypc.org.uk.

COALEY COMMUNITY SHOP

Covid Precautions

With more cases of coronavirus in our area we ask all our customers to do all they can to keep our community safe.

Make sure you keep 2 metres away from other customers and staff, both inside and while queueing outside.

Only 2 customers are allowed in the shop at a time.

Try to stay on opposite sides of the central shelves.

Please pay by card if you can.

Wearing a face covering is now mandatory unless you are exempt. Re-usable cloth masks can be bought in the shop. Donations go to Stroud Women's Refuge. Disposable masks can be bought for 50p.

Deliveries

We are continuing to offer deliveries to any customers who are not comfortable visiting the shop or who are isolating. Please place your order before 12 noon Monday to Friday.

Food Bank

We have reinstated a collection box for donations to Stroud Food Bank. You can buy items in the shop to donate or bring them from home. A volunteer will deliver our donations to the food bank regularly.

Valentine Raffle

Tickets for our Valentine raffle are now on sale in the shop, where the magnificent basket of goodies is on display. Tickets are £1 each and the

draw will be on Saturday February 13th. Proceeds will go towards the new shop.

RECREATION GROUND SUB-COMMITTEE

As you probably know already, the Parish Council is keen to update and improve the recreation ground and there is a sub-committee to help steer this. Following a meeting with Active Gloucestershire we have a better sense of what is possible and the costs involved. We now need some help to visualise our ideas, to enable consultation feedback, planning discussions, and funding applications.

Could you (or someone you know) help us with the design and visualisation of the ideas we have?

Once we have the design visualisations, we plan to:

- run a consultation with villagers on the scheme;
- use the consultation feedback to rethink and iterate the design as necessary;
- discuss the plans with Stroud Planning and apply for the necessary permissions;
- apply to a range of organisations for the necessary funding, taking a phased approach as necessary.

Any queries, please contact the parish clerk (details on back page).

SCHOOL

I hope you have all had a restful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Once again, we have returned this term to a very different school and a very different set of new rules. Luckily, the staff at Coaley have been amazing and quickly turned around the whole school to get ready for remote learning at home for the majority of our children. We are using a blended approach to learning in this current lockdown, with a mixture of online and paper-based learning. Some families are using it fully online, some are using only paper-based work and some are using a mixture. We have developed a system that suits all of our families. The teachers are planning the same lessons the children would be getting in school. They are making daily videos to support the children at home and offering feedback via our online platform or via Zoom or phone. In a small school, we know every child as an individual so we tailor the learning around each child's needs, just as we do normally when the school is fully open. We still have spaces in school for our key workers so they can keep the country going and keep us safe – thank you to all our key workers!

However, we are still not sitting on our laurels and Coaley Academy continues moving forwards. We are still getting our wraparound care ready to start from the Summer term. This is an exciting development for the school and one where we can offer working parents the peace of mind of quality

childcare before and after school. If you want to know more about this, just give us a call, and we will be happy to chat through our plans.

We love to get outside at Coaley and our grounds are amazing. All the children do one afternoon of PE and Forest School every week and we have just managed to secure a real-life England rugby player to school. She will be taking the children for PE and we know she will be fantastic addition to the Coaley team. Welcome Miss Connie Powell to Coaley!!

I hope you all continue to take care and stay safe, and that we can soon get back to a normal where we can be together again. Coaley is such a wonderfully close village and we are all very proud to be a part of it with you.

BROADBAND

Fastershire are holding an online community meeting on 3rd February to explain the rollout of the Gigaclear fibre broadband. You should have received a letter giving details, but if not see the events page of the Fastershire website. You need to register in advance for the event and invitations to the meeting will be sent out the day before. www.fastershire.com/faster-homes/events

COALEY CHURCH

Due to Covid 19 and the wish to keep everyone safe, it is unlikely that Coaley church will be open for services in February.

Services of Holy Communion will be zoomed at 10am on Sunday February 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th and on Ash Wednesday 17th.

This could continue into March depending on government guidelines. If so Sunday services will be zoomed at 10am.

Zoom details can be obtained from churchwardens, Rev Peter Fewings, associate priest and Sarah Smith, Parish administrator.

Churchwardens and PCC send best wishes for everyone to take care and stay safe.

The Right Reverend Robert Springett, Bishop of Tewkesbury will preside and preach at the Zoom Service of Holy Communion on Sunday February 14th. We look forward to welcoming him.

Thank you to everyone who sent photos of their Christmas Trees for the Virtual Christmas Tree Festival. They brightened up dark December and didn't just come from the local area. Photos were sent from USA & Peru. They are still on the Coaley Church website if you haven't seen them yet. www.stbartholomewcoaley.org.uk

This from Christopher Prout, Churchwarden Coaley Church. The mills of God grind exceedingly slowly in the Church of England and there is no news at the moment of the position of a new vicar for Coaley and Lower Cam being advertised. At present there are no Sunday services. As and when we are able to resume services, there is a stand-by selection of local priests who can cover when needed.

The church organ is obviously not being used at the moment but it does need to be kept in tune periodically to stop it seizing up and Coaley church is fortunate in having an organ scholar (young Rachel, from Wotton) who is able to undertake this necessary procedure.

Coaley church's organ was installed in 1938 as a memorial to a former member of the Prout family and it is today being maintained financially again by a former member of the Prout family. The Church has been fortunate in having had in the past some accomplished organists, the previous incumbent of the organ seat being Matthew Sharp, now the deputy Director of Music with the Dursley Male Voice Choir.

*Coaley Church after the recent snow.
Photo by Mike Davis.*



VILLAGE HALL

The village Hall remains closed till Covid restrictions are lifted. However the opportunity is being taken while the Hall is closed to do some much needed work at the front of the Hall.

The concrete slab that formed the "porch" was causing problems as its heavy weight was causing it to subside and tilt and loosening the stones of the frontage. The decision was taken to remove it and install a new porch in due course.

Also the leakage of water through the ceiling into the Ladies and Disabled Cloakrooms is being addressed.

STROUD DISTRICT COMMUNITY LOTTERY

Local good causes can benefit from new online community lottery – sign up for our launch event

A new online community lottery to benefit good causes will be launched by Stroud District Council in March.

Tickets for the Lucky Severn Community Lottery will cost £1 with 60p going towards local good causes, compared to just 28p in the pound for the National Lottery.

The draw will be weekly with a jackpot of £25,000 for a matching sequence of six numbers, other prizes being £2,000, £250, £25 or three free tickets.

There are two ways to take part in the Lucky Severn Community Lottery scheme. Stroud district good causes will be able to set up their own lottery page, and will receive 50p in every pound spent by players using this method. A further 10p in every pound will go into a general Stroud district good causes fund, with the remainder being put towards prizes, operating costs and VAT.

Players who do not wish to support a specific cause can still take part in the Lucky Severn Community Lottery, with 60p of their ticket price going into the general Stroud district good causes fund, which will be distributed by the council.

Stroud District Council leader, Councillor Doina Cornell, said: "With our budgets under increasing pressure, and local good causes also needing a boost, the Lucky Severn Community Lottery provides a great opportunity to help local good causes to raise additional money. We are committed to continuing our support to local community groups but this will be a way of spreading the benefit to many more groups."

Around 80 councils across the country are now running local lotteries including Cheltenham, Gloucester and Forest of Dean councils.

Regular updates on the progress of Lucky Severn Community Lottery will be posted on the Lucky Severn Lottery Facebook page and Twitter account, and www.luckysevernlottery.co.uk

WI

Coaley WI is now well versed in the use of zoom and we had a craft session before Christmas making felt gingerbread men to decorate our homes. Craft packs were distributed and the finished articles were on show at our December meeting. We had a quiz as well as a 'show and tell' of our favourite or treasured Christmas decoration. Members also received a Christmas gift bag which were much appreciated.



Coaley WI members and their gingerbread men on Zoom.

There were lots of positive comments about the Christmas yarn bombing which the knitting group had arranged around the shop and recreation ground.

Nationally, the WI is having to make changes to its constitution which would enable the WI to have greater flexibility to facilitate virtual attendance at meetings and to allow post or email voting. This has come about because of restrictions on freedom of movement due to covid. January is a time when the WI consider the campaigns they will be working on throughout the year and each member selects the

campaign they support the most. There are a variety of subjects to do with health and wellbeing, discrimination as well as better support for our environment and wildlife.

It is hard to know how meetings will be structured in the future from month to month and our programme is planned to allow for either zoom meetings or attendance in the hall depending on restrictions in place at the time. Our spring activities include a zoom Auction when members will be re gifting items to auction to members and raise funds. We also have talks planned from the Wetlands Wildlife trust in Slimbridge, Stroud Canal trust on the fascinating work in our area, and a Chiropractor explaining her work. We have outings planned for the summer months when we hope we will have more opportunities to get out and visit local gardens.

Details will be on facebook and in this magazine or you can email us on coaleywi@hotmail.com if you wish to join us. We'd love to see you. You will be sent an email invite to the zoom session.

June Dunlop
Secretary, Coaley WI

coaleywi@hotmail.com
facebook: coaleywi

CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK

What is your Carbon footprint?

For those interested in finding out where to start on reducing their environment impact and carbon footprint there are so many 'tools' out there. As a Parish seeking to become Carbon neutral in 2030 we also need to know what are starting point is. As there has been time to think more about environmental issues this Covid year, and to read around the concerns. I decided to try a calculation of my personal CO² footprint, using one of the several 'Calculators' available on the internet. My estimated CO² footprint is the mass of Carbon Dioxide that I add to the atmosphere annually through my heating, food, transport, and other needs/activities through the year. The rising level of CO² in the earth's atmosphere is recognised as the principal driver of Climate Change has risen from a little over 300 parts per million value I learnt when I did my Environmental Science degree to the present published value to just over 400 now- a steep rise in a short timespan !

The 'Calculator' I liked best of the several that I tried was at www.carbonindependent.org . This seemed genuinely independent – those that suggest Carbon Offsetting as a way to 'reduce' a CO² footprint can make money from your buying the offsetting – it was not difficult, and the assumptions and conversion factors it uses are explained (the 'read more..'

links). I only needed my household annual fuels bills to hand, total car mileage and mpg, and estimates of our household recycling, and food and other purchasing (the final household figure is then divided by the number in the household); but I did need to make some extra assumptions that the calculator does not adequately provide. These were (all just my guesses): an electric car counts 10% of a petrol/diesel car's footprint (not 0% because of the footprint in the charging infrastructure, roads, etc); second-hand purchases have a zero footprint; Biogas from Ecotricity counts 90% of Natural Gas (not less because the Ecotricity website explains they are Carbon Offsetting while they build Plants to generate fuel gas from grass). How much is 'average' consumption of Organic Food, Meat, Dairy, and miscellaneous spending? I took values of 20%, 20%, and 20% of my food bills, and assumed I was average on miscellaneous spending and food wastage.

My footprint came out at 7 tonnes of CO² per annum. This compares to a published UK average figure of 14.1 T and USA average of 17.6 T (this made me feel good), and with figures of 6.2 for China and 1.8 for India (which made feel less good). It showed me which are my biggest outputs, and so the areas I could target if I want to improve. It is obviously only an estimate, but if I make the calculation using the same calculator and assumptions next year it will be a fair comparison; and the process of doing the exercise has been interesting

(while locked down!) and certainly made me think about my environmental footprint.

Martin Percy – Parish Councillor & Member of Coaley & Ulley CAN (Climate Action Network)

CAN contact details Coaleycan@gmail.com

PRODUCE SHOW

We sold 150 Coaley calendars in the village shop which was a good fundraiser for the Produce Show. As you all know we were unable to run the show in 2020. Let's hope that we can actually have it this September. below is the arts and crafts classes for you to be working on during the winter– and if we can't hold an actual show we may try to go on line instead.

A knitted or crocheted baby cardigan (0-2 years) - can be donated.

Knitted or crocheted fingerless gloves.

An upcycled birdbox.

An indoor Christmas wreath.

A wood carving.

A household item made out of wood.

A home-made cushion cover.

A Cotswold view (painting, any medium).

Still life (painting, any medium).

A patchwork.

“Rainbow”, (any subject, any medium except photography).

A Limerick “Our village has got a new shop...”

We are planning our plant swap and sale again this May- either at the Village hall or as a trail with tables around the village which proved very popular last year. This is likely to be over the weekend of 29th/30th/31st May. Please start thinking of planting seeds and cuttings to swap.

Our 2021 Garden's cup will be earlier than usual on 18th April. This year's theme is “Spring bulbs in pots and containers”. Hopefully all the Coaley gardeners will have nice displays of bulbs to enter. It is a chance to either show pots off in a distanced way or if allowed, to have a chat outdoors to our knowledgeable and enthusiastic judges. If we are still subject to strict lockdown rules it may be that we would judge the competition by entrant's or committee member's photos.



KNITTING GROUP

We cannot meet in person but members are continuing to knit or crochet at home. Members are asked to keep their completed items at home till they can be collected and taken to various charities. We were able to send a large number of blankets, toys and garments to the Tallingdin Project in The Gambia. Items will be delivered to Kids Stuff and The Haven as soon as it is permitted.

The Knitting Group made an effort to brighten up the centre of the village with Christmas cheer by placing knitted chains around the village and putting knitted socks on the fence by the village hall.

Anyone one interested in knitting can contact Barbara Davis on 01453 890679 for details of items needed.



WALKING WEBSITE

Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks? Walking in Gloucestershire www.walkinginengland.co.uk/glos is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Gloucestershire (part of the Walking in England suite of websites (www.walkinginengland.co.uk) – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk/glos

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	Lorraine Patrick Lorraine.Patrick@gloucestershire.gov.uk	07881 581189
Vicar	position vacant	
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