

Coaley Parish

NEWSLETTER

Issue no 117
April / May 2021



Shop Build Starts
Community Orchard

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
Sunday 16th May 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: *This year's spring lamb portrait at Upper Silver Street Farm.*

VILLAGE NEWS

SHOP BUILD STARTS

The weather was kind on the 1st March as Simon Littlewood, the architect for the new Coaley Community Shop 'cut the first sod' in company with Brenda Board, chair of the shop committee and Steve Birkbeck, the builder. Bob Hallam was also on hand in the digger, kindly lent by Simon Tomblin of Rocket Rentals.



There was a real sense of excitement as the trenches for the foundations took shape.

The foundations, floor structure and drains have all been passed by building control and work will continue with the walls and roof. You'll very soon really start to see the new shop take shape. Steve Birkbeck says 'I can honestly say I feel privileged to be involved in this project at the heart of our community. We are making new friends every day. The positive feedback and genuine interest is heartwarming.'

New opportunities

The new shop will be larger than the current prefabricated building and will include a toilet for volunteers and customers. There will be a dedicated area for refreshments and chat which will allow us to develop new initiatives including, we hope, a social hub. This



will build on the lifeline that the shop provided for vulnerable and isolated members of the community during the Covid crisis, especially during the first lock down.

Extra space will also allow us to expand our lines. For example we are thinking about stocking beer and wines for the first time. More plans in the next issue.

We would like you views

We will install a suggestions box in the shop and would welcome your views on any aspect of the new shop. You can find out more on our website - www.coaleycommunityshop.co.uk or follow us on our Facebook page. If you don't like electronic communication you can see the noticeboard in the shop and you can always speak to one of our volunteers.

Funding

We wouldn't have got this far without the generosity of our funders. We are grateful for all the fund raising activities that took place in the village and for the Quiz night that Ellie Saintie organised in the Old Fox. Thanks also go to the Barnwood Trust, Gloucestershire

Community Foundation, Summerfield Trust and the National Lottery Community Fund. We received a donation from Renishaw's and are particularly grateful for the generosity of the Goring family of Everhot.

Easter specials!

In the meantime the shop is still open for business. With Easter nearly here you can expect some special treats from Lillie B's Patisserie.

Lillie will be making a range of Easter bakes including Easter biscuits, egg related bakes like New York style mini egg cookies, Cadbury's cream egg rocky road and more. She will be doing hot cross buns too.

We will also have a range of Easter eggs including, of course, Cadbury's Creme Eggs and other festive confectionary.

Luckysevern Lottery

Our fund raising efforts continue and you might strike lucky. Coaley Community Shop now has a page on the new Lucky Severn Lottery.

As of now supporters can go to our page and purchase lottery tickets to support us. The shop will also appear on the listing page of the Lucky Severn Lottery website in the browse and search features.

There is more information in the shop.

Easter opening hours

Good Friday	9am to 12 noon
Easter Saturday	9am to 12 noon
Easter Sunday	10am to 12 noon
Easter Monday	10am to 12 noon



Coaley Produce Show

Plant Trail Swap & Sale

2 & 3 May 2021

You can swap a plant of similar size, buy a plant by donation in cash or by bank transfer. No change will be given.

Tables will be situated at The Street, Hams Hill, Far Green, The Ham and Silver Street.



A tea and cake stall will be provided by Coaley WI. Bring your own travel cup and receive a free refill.

Bring your own bags, observe social distancing and wash your hands when you get home. Donations will be given to local charities.

Contact us at: plants@coaleyproduceshow.org.uk

COMMUNITY ORCHARD

In February 2020 the parish council decided that the allotments at Far Green had been left derelict for too long and thought that a community orchard on the site would be a good use of the space.

After discussions with a tree supplier we found that grants were available for planting trees as part of a replacement programme for trees lost due to ash dieback - the results of which are starkly apparent at the top of Peak Lane.

We applied for and obtained a £500 grant from the CPRE Gloucestershire, funded from a charitable trust and matched locally by the Cotswolds Conservation Board, Network Rail and public donations. We hoped to hold a community tree planting event but within a few days of that the COVID-19 pandemic started to rear its ugly head and any community involvement was made impossible.

A year later and we are still unable to hold a community planting event but we were given the go ahead to get the trees planted in a COVID secure way. We've had to organise this quite quickly because the season to plant the trees was coming to an end, but we've managed to involve 22 people of all ages to plant ten trees. We have room for five more trees which we will plant next year.

The trees are all heritage varieties and several of them such as Arlingham Schoolboys and Cambridge Queening are very local Gloucestershire apples.

It will take a few years before there is a crop to pick but they will be free for anyone to use. We also have kept some raspberries that were already growing on the site and have planted a few spare currant bushes to add variety and occupy some space while the trees mature. We plan to provide some seating to make the orchard a place for the community to enjoy.





VACCINATIONS

Since the last newsletter vaccinations have been happening at an amazing pace at the Vale hospital. Now March is drawing to a close we have offered vaccines to everyone over 50 and 16-50 year olds with a severe underlying health condition. We have now given second doses to all the care home and Nursing home residents and most of the over 80's. We have used both Pfizer and Astra Zenica vaccines and can now manage 1000 appointments a day! We have wasted virtually no doses. If we have any "left over" at the end of a session we have contacted local Police and teachers to use them up.

Our frustration is still erratic supplies of vaccine, with little notice and big variations in amounts we are delivered- from 400 one week to 5500 the next. April may be another slow period as

there are national shortages. We have been assured that the doses we require for second vaccinations will be supplied when needed.

We will offer vaccinations to everyone from 50 down to 18 as soon as we get supplies in and will be on track to finish all first and second doses by August.. Gloucestershire GPs have chosen to continue to offer vaccinations for everyone in our county, there are no big centres within the county. If you get a letter offering an appointment at a National centre you are likely to have to travel to Bath or Bristol or Malvern. If you wait for a text message from your GP practice that will let you book an appointment at the Vale, this has usually been a few days or up to a week later. We are told who we can invite by NHS England, we feel disappointed as the National service has recently been allowed to invite groups before we have been.

We have been supported by a fantastic team of volunteers from GL11 directing patients outside and inside the hospital. We are also very fortunate to have had help with vaccinating from retired GPs, nurses and even a retired dentist.

As a GP I am now aware of far fewer cases of Covid infection once people have been vaccinated. Gloucester Royal was busier in January than at any time in 2020, it has now only got a few patients with Covid which shows the vaccine in combination with the lockdown is working well.

WI

The early days of zoom meetings brought as few as 5 members to our meetings as we all grappled with technology but the WI love a challenge and our last meeting saw 31 people join us, not only from Coaley but all over the country. Zoom allows us to open our meetings to all WI's and we have been joined by members as far South as the Isle of Wight and North to Aberdeen. Some of these have family in the village or have lived here previously and enjoyed hearing about what is happening in the area.

Our annual auction was interesting as we all had to try out our auctioneering skills and sell our own items. We managed to raise over £130 and half of this will be donated to a worldwide charity which invests in women's empowerment by funding small scale, women led projects.

We had a fascinating talk from the Cotswold Canal trust with a history of the canal which used to stretch from the Severn to the Thames and barges would carry goods both ways on a journey that rose of 350 feet over a multitude of locks. The canal couldn't compete with the Railways and soon fell into disrepair. Restoration of the Stroud canal began in 1972 and funding was awarded late last year for further work. The Trust directly employs just 4 people with all other work carried out by volunteers with many different skills including engineers who design locks and technical aspects to fund raisers and

administrators. Cotswold canal trust has raised almost £120,000 from their Charity book and music shop in Brimscombe and they sell logs from the many trees cleared around the canal sights. Throughout the talk, we saw many before and after pictures of the canal including the Whitminster roundabout which we have all had to navigate in various ways over recent months. We all agreed we should try a canal boat trip in the summer with a visit to the Cafe where the lemon cake is said to be delicious.

To maintain contact through these lockdown days we have set up a coffee morning on zoom so that we can have a natter outside of normal meeting events. We also have a whatsapp group to keep the chatter going!

The programme for the year is included in this months parish magazine, why not join us. We expect that indoor meetings won't happen until July so at present we are meeting up on zoom and you can email us to receive your zoom invite.

June Dunlop
Secretary
Coaley WI

email: coaleywi@hotmail.com
facebook: [coaleywi](https://www.facebook.com/coaleywi)



WELCOME BACK!!

Hello everyone! Like us, we are sure it has felt like an awfully long and drawn-out winter for most. However, as the restrictions begin to ease, we would like to share our opening plans with you.

Good News.....We will indeed be opening our doors once more on Monday 12th April for alfresco drinking and dining and we very much look forward to seeing you.

We will have a limited number of covered tables available for booking. In addition, there are plenty of tables with umbrellas if you fancy popping in for a pint on the spur of the moment!Our booking system will be open from 1st April, please remember the RULE OF 6 applies.

Opening Hours:

Monday – Thursday 4pm – close. Food served from 5pm – 9pm

Friday – Sunday 12pm – Close. Food served 12pm-3pm 5pm-9pm

Takeaways available during food serving times daily.

Takeaways – Have been a huge success during these unprecedented times and will continue to be available, however, you can also get your hands on some lovely draught beers this time!! We would like to take this opportunity thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to sharing good times again soon.

Julie, Ellie and The Old Fox Team

SCHOOL REPORT

We are so pleased to have all the children back and settled at Coaley school. I know that the long lockdown has been hard on so many in the Village, but I feel particularly so for some of our children and families. I also want to say a massive thank you to all of our amazing parents at Coaley who have either been helping keep the country running as essential workers or have been homeworking-heroes and supporting their children's learning at home. We could not have come to this positive place without them. We are already making plans to make sure that all our children quickly catch up on any missed learning and continue to do amazing work.

The children have made a cracking start back at school, and they have enjoyed learning loads and being

outside in the fresh air with their friends. The outside space is so important to us at Coaley and we love getting the children outside come rain or shine – and there's been quite a bit of both at the moment!

The biggest change we have coming up is our wraparound care that we will be offering from 19th April. We will be offering a breakfast and an after school club to support working parents or for those who have other commitments that they need our help with. We have lots of fun activities planned, light snacks and outdoor time too. If you would like to take up this offer, then please contact Mrs Astley on the details below. If you live in the Village and haven't thought of Coaley Primary before, because you needed after school care, then please give us a call and come and see all the wonderful things going on in your local school.



Coaley Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting

Tuesday 20th April 7:30 PM via Zoom.

The council will be reporting on the past year, this will consist of an update by the chair and a financial report by the clerk.

Please contact the clerk at clerk@coaley-parish-council.gov.uk if you would like to attend the meeting.

WRAPAROUND BREAKFAST & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

STARTS APRIL 19TH FOR COALEY PRIMARY ACADEMY

- Easy Booking System
- Childcare Vouchers Accepted
- Ad Hoc or Block Booking Available
- Free Taster Session available in First Term
- Selection of Fun Packed Resources
- Fun Variety of activities everyday
- Half Termly Activity Themes
- Breakfast/light afternoon snack optional

Club Prices:

8.00am – 8.40am: £2.50

3.15pm – 4.30pm: £5.00

3.15pm – 5.30pm: £6.50

CHECK OUR
WEBSITE FOR
FULL DETAILS



Club Offers: Siblings receive 10% off each booking
Weekly bookings receive 15% off

Tel: 01453 890358

www.coaleyacademy.co.uk

FIBRE BROADBAND

About 100 people from the local area joined the on-line Gigaclear information meeting on 3rd February.

Although originally scheduled to start at the beginning of this year, they say the installation work will now start during the second quarter of this year and everyone will be able to get a service by the first quarter of 2022. Some will be able to get a service earlier as parts of the network are completed.

Coaley will be connected to their network in Slimbridge via Elmcote Lane and then the work will spread out through the village to Far Green and then on to Cam via Ashmead and Upthorpe. Although Gigaclear are engaged to target areas without a good internet connection, they will inevitably pass areas that already have a fibre to the cabinet service from BT. These locations will be able to use either service.

The network is completely new and has no dependency on BT infrastructure, although sometimes they will share ducting with them if it is convenient. The work will involve quite a lot of disruption with holes dug everywhere, traffic management and road closures but they assure us they will work with the community to ensure important access is maintained and that reinstatement is to a good standard.

Every property on the route will have a connection point installed at the property boundary. This is a small hole

similar in size to a water meter. If you connect to the service they will make the connection to your house free of charge so long as the distance is less than 100m and there is a minimal amount of specialist surface to reinstate.

As with any other internet connection you go to an internet service provider to buy a connection. Fewer ISPs offer Gigaclear and they tend to be less well known specialist providers. One of them is Gigaclear themselves.

The slides for the presentation have more information and show the build maps. They can be accessed on the Parish Council's website at www.coaleypc.org.uk/fibre.

PLAYGROUP

Christmas now seems like a distant memory and we have had a very busy term at playgroup. We have had lots of new families join our setting and we are now getting very busy. If you would like your child to attend Coaley in the future please do get in touch to be added to the waiting list. Despite the on-going COVID situation, we are fortunate to be able to offer COVID secure visits on a Thursday when we are closed to the children.

What we have been doing since January?

We started the term looking at one of our favourite books 'stick man'. We went for a walk to collect some sticks and used these for lots of fun activities

including making our own stickman character, sequencing them by size order and painting some woodland pictures using the sticks. We then had a healthy eating focus week while we looked at the story of 'kitchen disco'. We have had lots of celebrations over the last term including Chinese New Year, Valentines Day, World Book Day and our most recent celebration being Mothering Sunday. The children enjoyed making their wonderful Mummy's a card and planting them a seed to watch it grow together over the coming weeks. It has been a fun term so far and for the next few weeks we will be looking at Spring and Easter and look forward to the warmer weather.

Our community

We have had a few toy donations

recently from some Families in the Coaley community and we would like to say a huge thank you! As you are aware we are a charity run playgroup so kind donations of toys and resources are greatly received. We are on the lookout for a new toy car garage as ours has recently broken so if you know of anyone that has one they no longer use we would be very grateful.

Getting in touch

If you would like to keep in touch or ask any questions, you can always contact us.

Please take a look at our website <http://www.coaleyplaygroup.org/>
email: coaleyplaygroup@gmail.com

April 2021 Sessions

	Morning session	Full session
Monday	8:30am – 12:30pm	8:30am – 2:30pm
Tuesday	8:30am – 12:30pm	8:30am – 2:30pm
Wednesday	8:30am – 12:30pm	8:30am – 2:30pm
Thursday	Closed Coaley crawlers and toddler group	TBA
Friday	8:30am – 12:30pm	8:30am – 2:30pm

We are hoping to be opening a new toddler group on a Thursday, more information will be provided soon.

CHURCH SERVICES

Easter Services at St Bartholomew's Church

Due to Covid 19, and the wish to keep everyone safe and following Church of England guidelines, services will remain on zoom. Selected services may take place at Lower Cam church. When restrictions allow the church will once again be open for services. If this occurs before publication of the next edition of the newsletter notices will be posted and people informed. The church will need to be thoroughly cleaned before this can happen. Anyone wishing to help with this should contact the churchwardens. Thank you.

Easter Services

Sunday 28th March 10am
Holy Communion for Palm Sunday

Thursday 1st April 7.30pm
Holy Communion for Maundy Thursday

Friday 2nd April 2pm
Reflections at the foot of the cross for Good Friday

Sunday 4th April 10am
Holy Communion for Easter Day

Services for the remaining Sundays in April and May will be zoomed at 10am

If the church reopens the service on a Sunday will be at 9.15am

A service of Compline by zoom is held every Tuesday at 8pm

Please see the church website for zoom details or speak to a churchwarden

Ken Williams 01453 84222326
kandpw@btinternet.com

Chris Prout 01453 899116
prout915@btinternet.com



St Bartholomew's Church, Coaley

A Virtual Musical Miscellany

Short Informal Zoom Concerts

Sunday 11th April

Sunday 16th May

3pm

Contact g.s.holmes@sky.com

or check church website for zoom details

country but around the world. Educating our children about these chronic situations is essential.

We can do our bit by planting more trees, hedges and flora for fauna. Many of our garden, field and woodland birds are paired up now, but it's still not too late to put up nest boxes, (preferably facing north east). Previous editions of this magazine have given hints for attracting birds to your gardens, and the internet can assist. A big way in which we can help is to have more control of our domestic pets, not only in our own gardens, if you have nesting birds, but also in the wider countryside, e.g. keeping dogs under tighter control if birds are sitting on eggs or feeding, and of course, there are new born lambs in the fields now. In the South West alone, it has been reported recently that £100,000 worth of farm livestock was fatally injured or killed last year alone by dogs. There was quite a shocking scientific article in the print media recently entitled 'How To Stop The Feline Slaughter', the gist of which is reproduced here. To stop your cat massacring local wildlife, change its diet – and play with it more. Researchers have discovered that cats that are fed premium grain-free food deposit a third fewer corpses on doorsteps, while just five to ten minutes play with a toy mouse cuts the slaughter of birds and small mammals by a quarter, reports The Guardian. As the UK's 10.5 million domestic cats are believed to be responsible for the deaths of 100 million animals a year, such changes, if widely adopted, could

NATURE NOTES

Where have all the birds gone? Experts such as David Attenborough say that human activity is destroying the planet. Others say that the human race is already overpopulated, and increasingly so. The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) informs that over half of the UK species are in decline, and that we are one of the most nature depleted countries in the world, and this should make all of us sit up and think! BTO data shows that 67% of the UK's bird species are on the Red (Danger) List, i.e. at risk of extinction, probably over this century. The list is ever growing. All of us must do our best to nurture nature, not only in this

lead to millions of animal lives saved a year, without interfering with cats' natural behaviour. "Cats like the thrill of the hunt", said lead author Prof Robbie McDonald of the University of Exeter. "Previous measures like bells tried to stymie the cat at the last minute". However bells, his study found, were ineffective. "What we did was to try to head them off at the pass by addressing some of their needs and wants before they think about going out hunting". The study, published in the journal 'Current Biology', involved 355 cats. The play element amounted to owners moving a feather toy on a string, to encourage the cats to stalk, chase and pounce, then a toy mouse to 'kill'!

SUMMER VISITORS

House Martins: 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.

Swallows: 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: 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 at much as nine months to a year on the wing, and they are known to nap whilst flying.

Swift sightings can be reported to Bradford-on-Avon Swift Group at climatechampions@gmail.com, or www.swift-conservation.org.

Note: These birds are all, of course, protected species – it is an offence to disturb or destroy their nest sites and environments. There was the distressing sight a few years ago when an active house martin nest had been wired over, preventing the juveniles from flying out, and they perished inside the wire.

Should you require any advice about these birds, or how to obtain artificial nesting boxes, and how to erect them, please contact Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, and there's plenty of information on the internet.

Otis Tarda



supporting



COALEY
COMMUNITY
SHOP

WE'VE LAUNCHED OUR LOTTERY PAGE

Buy Your Tickets From Our Page - We Get 50%

- We now have a Lucky Severn Lottery page!
- Support local causes and win prizes of up to £25,000!
- 50% of all tickets sold from our page go to us!
- PLUS 10% goes to other local good causes!
- Tickets only cost £1 per week!
- Support us and win prizes - WIN WIN!

[https://www.luckysevernlottery.co.uk/
support/coaley-community-shop](https://www.luckysevernlottery.co.uk/support/coaley-community-shop)

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

DON'T LOSE IT



In order to vote in the upcoming Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire, County, District and Parish Council elections taking place on May 6th 2021 you must be registered on the Electoral Roll.

Planning is already underway and we would like to reassure you that our highest priority is the safety of our staff and our electorate. We will be adhering to Government Guidelines, so your Polling Station may look a bit different, please help us to help you keep safe by following the guidelines.

To register to vote, please go to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. You will need your date of birth and national insurance number and registering only takes a few minutes.

If you are not able to cast your ballot at a polling station or would prefer not to vote in person you can apply for an “Absent Vote”.

Stroud District Council Elections web page has all the information you need:

<https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections/how-do-i-vote>

From here you can find out all about how to vote including:

Check if you are registered by using a quick link.

Register to vote deadline - Midnight, Monday 19 April 2021

Voting by Post –request or download an application form

Postal vote deadline - 5pm, Tuesday 20 April 2021

We must receive your application by post or email by 5pm on Tuesday 20 April to ensure you are able to vote by post. To vote by post, you must complete an application form which can be found on the elections web page.

Voting by Proxy – request or download an application form

Proxy vote deadline - 5pm, Tuesday 27 April 2021

We must receive your application by post or email by 5pm on Tuesday 27 April to ensure you are able to vote by proxy. To vote by proxy you must complete an application form which can be found on the elections web page.



Elections Job Opportunities

Have you ever considered working at one of our Polling Stations?

We are looking to recruit motivated staff to fill a number of important paid roles on election day.

On Thursday May 6th 2021 the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gloucestershire, County, District and Parish Council elections will be taking place.

Planning is already underway and we would like to reassure you that our highest priority is the safety of our staff and our electorate. We will be adhering to Government Guidelines, so our Polling Station may look a bit different. And in order to deliver this plan, we will need extra staff at many of our Polling Stations

These are paid roles across the whole of the Stroud District. And the Elections Team are keen to hear from you.

More information about the role and how to apply can be found here: <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/elections/elections-job-opportunities>

Applicants must be over 18, eligible to work in the UK and not affiliated to any political party.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish Councillors	Stephen Cook	860504
	Martin Percy	890818
	Ben Bywater	07909 545303
	Caroline Eardley	860139
	John Hobson	07715 558110
Parish Clerk	Penny Wait	860191
	Lynn Thornton clerk@coaleypc.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	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