

Coaley Parish NEWSLETTER

Issue no 127

December 2022 / January 2023



Panto review
Christmas events

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
4th Dec	A Very Coaley Christmas and Christmas Tree lighting	4:00pm - 6:30pm	Hall
11th Dec	Words and Music for a Winter Afternoon	3:00 pm	Church
18th Dec	Carol Service	4:00pm	Church
22nd Dec	Carol Singing	7:00pm	See p 7
24th Dec	Christmas Communion	9:30pm	Church
24th Dec	Christmas Communion	9:30am	Church
11th Jan	Music and Cake with Doozie	3:00 pm	Church

Parish Council meetings are 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 Monday 16th January 2023.

email: newsletter@coaleypc.org.uk

web: www.coaleypc.org.uk

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

This issue edited by Stephen Cook.

Cover picture: *Bea Smith and Steve Birkbeck in the Panto.*

VILLAGE NEWS

PANTO

This year's production was set in the village of Tumbledown, home to Mother Hubbard and her feisty orphans. From the toe-tapping opening song to the sing along at the end, the whole cast performed with gusto and exuberance. It's always great to see new faces but this year our cast grew considerably, particularly in the enthusiastic younger section. A wealth of talent for future years!

Comically played by John Sirett, Squire Gambit enters stage having gambled away all his money and in need of a change of luck. Squire Gambit meets Demon Evil (played aptly by Ray Fielding) and is given a magic purse,

which never empties, along with the deeds to Mother Hubbard's orphanage. With his new change of fortune, the Squire becomes greedy and goes off to collect outstanding rent from Mother Hubbard.

Faced with eviction, Mother Hubbard pours her heart into preventing her beloved orphans from becoming homeless. She does this with the help of Handy Andy (played humorously by Keri James). Steve Birkbeck, in the title role, combined humour and sensitivity: a perfect example of this being his solo which was full of emotion and vigour.

Below: Old Mother Hubbard and her orphans.



King (newcomer Jody Allan) and Queen (Gemma Sirett) take a royal walkabout amongst their subjects, the audience, searching for a suitable princess for their son to marry, unaware that Harry has met and instantly fallen in love at first sight with Megan, a poor orphan. Love blossoms for Harry and Megan, played with an abundance of confidence by Mia Griffith (Harry) and Mia Coggins (Megan) who delighted the audience with their duet.

Emily Smith displayed her multitude of talents by adapting the songs as well as playing half of the comic duo, Bump and Grind, alongside Olga Downes. The pair treated the audience with many hilarious scenes, one of which



involved an almost life-size taxi built by our resident props maestro Dave Prout.

Finally, Fairy Good (Bea Smith) persuades the Squire to mend his ways. Tumbledown village rejoices as Good defeats Evil and prosperity is restored.

As always, the scenery was a feast for the eyes and can be credited to Coaley Art Club. Altogether, this was an entertaining and colourful production.

Congratulations to everybody on stage and behind the scenes and a big thank you to director and director's assistant - Paul and Emily Day - for all their hard work.





*Far left: Ray Fielding as Demon Evil
Left: Olga Downes and Emily Smith as
Bump and Grind.
Above: The entire cast perform the finale.*

GRANTS FOR GROUPS

Coaley has many small (and not so small) groups, aiming in their own way to bring villagers together and generally find ways of providing services and activities to improve village life. Coaley Parish Council shares these aims and wishes to encourage people by awarding small grants to get involved in activities that promote and develop the village as a sustainable, cohesive community.

To support us to realise this vision the Parish Council has agreed a Grants Policy to help make decisions about the sorts of activity we want to encourage. The policy aims to ensure that any decisions about funding applications are responsible,

transparent and good value for money. It outlines the sort of activity we wish to support, including the provision of services for residents, improving recreation and / or sports facilities and improving the environment. It also covers the type of groups that can apply and the grant application process.

Although funds are limited the Council hopes that having a policy will encourage community based groups needing small grants, usually between £100 - £500

The policy, along with an application form is now available on the Parish Council website www.coaleypc.org.uk.

SCHOOL

We have had a great term so far in school, and we have all been enjoying the autumnal weather and all the joys that this gives us. The children love being outside; the falling leaves and change in the season is a great time to explore the environment, draw, paint and play outside. Our Forest Schools area has just been expanded and the children are loving the new space and greater opportunities to make, create and play there. All our children do Forest Schools every week, from Reception to Y6, including a KS2 Forest Schools club once a week. We are so lucky at Coaley to have such lovely surroundings and a large outdoor space for the children to play in.

The Coaley fireworks display was a HUGE success with so many families braving the rain and gloomy weather to witness the bangs and flashes of the fireworks. As the show was about to start, the weather cleared, giving us uninterrupted views of the dazzling display so we could be showered with the Coaley firework magic. I would like to thank Stephen Cook, Bruce Caldwell and Ray Fielding for setting up and lighting the fireworks, and our amazing PTA (FOCS) who organised the whole event. We managed to raise some funds towards our new trim-trail too.

As we are a part of the DGAT family of schools, we get to join in with larger events across the 19-other schools within the Trust. Two of our delightful School Council reps attended the



DGAT Parliament at Gloucester Cathedral where they met in the Parliament Rooms and took part in debates and discussions about real and fun topics. Both Poppy and Arthur had a great time debating and even met Dale Vince OBE who was there to talk about climate change and share his debating skills with the children. They were both ambassadors for our school and got involved lots too.

As always, if you want to come and have a look around the school, either as a prospective parent or even as an ex-pupil, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the school office on 01453 890358.

Carol Singing

Coaley Church Choir will be singing carols on Thursday 22nd December starting at 7pm in the village hall car park then to Betworthy, The Close & Fox Meadow finishing at The Fox. Do come out and listen or join in celebrating the Christmas season.



Donations for Gloucester City Mission welcomed.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Christmas is coming and we are beginning to get our Christmas stock in. Whatever you want please check out the shop first. We will be stocking Christmas cards, wrapping paper, stamps, mince pies, Christmas puddings, chocolate coins, Advent calendars, boxes of chocolates and lots lots more.

We will be getting our usual deliveries from Hobbs House Bakery – and they have a variety of Christmas extras available to order. We will put details in the shop as soon as we get them, and you will be able to place orders then.

And of course over the Christmas period we'll be here for all you basics too – milk, eggs, etc. So if you run low on anything we've probably got it.

Coaley Warm Place

In these difficult times a variety of “warm places” are being set up across Gloucestershire where anyone can come and sit in the warmth for as long as they need. Coaley Shop is going to operate as an unofficial warm place throughout the winter months – keeping the temperature in the shop at

20–21oC so if you, or anyone you know, is feeling cold or in need of a little company, then please come to the shop and make use of the café. There is free wifi, plenty of books to read, and coffee and cakes available.

Your Shop Needs YOU!

We are delighted the shop is so well supported, and that we now stay open all day Monday to Friday. We're also very proud that we are one of the few shops in the country run entirely by volunteers allowing us to keep prices lower than they would otherwise have to be. But that means we do need as many volunteers as possible to work in the shop so that we can spread the load. And now that covid restrictions are largely lifted our volunteers are back to taking holidays as normal – meaning it is harder to cover shifts at times. Can you help? If you could take on doing a shift in the shop just once a fortnight or even once a month it would be a tremendous help. If so please ask in the shop or else contact Steve Wills on 07867 672400.

Christmas Opening hours:

Christmas Eve	9:00 - 12:00
Christmas Day	Closed.
Boxing Day	10.00 – 12.00
Tuesday 27th Dec bank holiday	10.00 – 12.00
28th - 31st Dec	Normal hours
New Year's Day	10.00 – 12.00
Monday 2nd Jan bank holiday	10.00 – 12.00

St Bartholomews Church and Coaley Produce Show
present

A Very Coaley Christmas

Craft
Stalls

Festive
refreshments
homemade cake
and mulled wine

Mari B Artwork

Christmas Cards
and Wrapping Paper

entertainment from
Woodford Silver Band
the children of Coaley School
and Coaley Pantomime

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with Paint-a-Pot

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07814 391050
www.Paint-a-Pot.co.uk

Coaley Village Hall
Sunday 4th Dec
16.00-18.30



The Big
Christmas Light
Switch On!

WI

In October Coaley WI had a talk from a member of the Beresford group which manages Stroud womens refuge. We had heard about the early days of trying to set up a support network for women in our area from a founding member and were shocked at the attitudes of people at the time.

Fortunately the hard work continued and there is now accommodation for families who are fleeing home and the group also does outreach work including advising women about how to stay safe in a bad relationship and supporting children to understand what good relationships look like. There is some statutory funding but the group relies on donations from other charities such as Lottery and Children in Need and Ellin was pleased to accept the many gifts of clothing, toiletries, games etc from members. 1 in 4 people will experience domestic abuse so there is no doubt about how valuable and necessary this work is. Members donated a wide variety of items to the charity.

November was our AGM with reports regarding the past year and plans for the future. We joined this with a pudding club and members were invited to bring along a home made pud for tasting and judging. There was great variety of puds on offer with everyone having to choose their top three, the winner was an apple mouse with lemon posset and bread and butter pudding close runners up.

From the Gloucester federation office, we were delighted to receive this email

-In recognition of your WI's fabulous work in creating community decorations for the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, GFWI would like to show its appreciation and make an award of £10.00 to your WI funds. ' The federation held a competition for the best post box topper and there were some amazing entries so this was a lovely surprise.

PLANS FOR COALEY REC.

The Coaley Recreation Ground Action Group (CRAG) continue to meet on a monthly basis to move forward with our vision to regenerate the recreation ground. We are working hard behind the scenes to get all of the necessary admin work done in order for us to start applying for bids and grants as well as plan some fund raising events.

You may have spotted our stalls at the Sheep Hunt in September. This was our first small part in a fund raising event and we raised £173!

In the new year we also hope to get our Facebook page up and running but in the meantime the children at Coaley school are busy helping to design us a new logo, so watch this space!

If you are interested in joining our friendly subcommittee or feel you could help us to plan some fund raising events in 2023 please do get in contact with Lucy Holder via email lucyholder709@gmail.com. You would be very welcome.

**P
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A
C
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NOEL

St Bartholomew's Church, Coaley
invites you to join them at Christmas

Saturday 3rd December

Messy Church 10am-12 noon

Sunday 18th December

Carol Service 4pm

Christmas Eve

Crib Service 3pm

Christmas Communion 9.30pm

Christmas Day

Christmas Communion 9.30am

Revd. Graham & the churchwardens
wish you a happy & peaceful Christmas

Christmas

**J
O
Y**

What's on



Pub of the Year!

We are so unbelievably proud to say we are the Cotswold Life Food & Drink Pub of the Year! We can't thank our customers enough for the incredible support and for all the wonderful feedback we receive. We hope to continue this success and keep putting smiles on your faces!

Christmas Party Music Nights

Saturday 3rd December: The Disclaimers – Local 5 piece covers band 80's & 90's

Saturday 10th December: Sean Carless – Acoustic guitarist and singer 70's, 80's, 90's and today

Saturday 17th December: Laura Davis – Country singer with popular covers

Boxing Day Quiz

Our resident quizmaster General Ellie Sainty returns to test your minds at the most wine-derful time of the year! There will be a cash prize available so this is snow joke. But wait – there's myrrh! Bring your leftovers along and all the trimmings for a night of merriment. Start time is 7pm, if you don't book, yule be sorry!



Christmas Opening Hours

Christmas Eve: 12pm – Late (Food served 12pm – 3pm)

Christmas Day: 11pm – 2pm (Drinks Only)

Boxing Day: 12pm – 11pm (Drinks Only)

New Years Eve: 12pm – Late (Party Night)

New Years Day; 12 – Late (Traditional roast served 12pm – 4:30pm)

St Bartholomew's Church, Coaley

Saturday 3rd December
10am-12noon



crafts
painting
songs
refreshments



Come and hear the Christmas Story

Make a shoe box nativity

Children of all ages welcome

St Bartholomew's Church, Coaley

**Words and Music
for a Winter Afternoon**

**A light hearted entertainment
with seasonal readings and music
followed by refreshments
and a chance to chat.**

Sunday 11th December

3pm

Admission free

NURTURE NATURE

Many of you will have followed the daily postings from COP 27 (Conference of the Parties) which met in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt 6-18 November.

Hopefully the majority of readers of this column will have made some resolution of their intention to do their bit for nurturing nature, the environment and to endeavour one way or another to meet the minus 1.5 degrees C in temperature reduction by 2030.

Should you not have done so you can make this your New Year Resolution!

This article was written in mid November and all of us have probably contributed towards saving the Planet by not having the heating on as regularly due to the above normal seasonal temperatures, thus saving energy and the resulting pollutants.

However, the higher than normal seasonal daily temperatures (in excess of 12 degrees C - Armistice Day was the warmest on record) in many parts of the British Isles have had a knock on effect for nature affecting birds, mammals and plants. Some plants are flowering out of season, which is confusing the circadian rhythms of birds, mammals and insects. Some birds are even starting to build nests, bees are buzzing in unexpected blossoms, bats should be dormant but are taking the odd nocturnal flight, hedgehogs should be hibernating but are making night time foraging sorties.

The unseasonal weather is also influencing the behaviour of winter migrants, and fewer have been seen so far this year. This should change as the weather gets colder. However, birds, and especially seabirds, have

been greatly affected by avian flu and coastal colonies have been badly depleted. So, please keep feeders and birdbaths clean (wash in warm water with a little washing up liquid). This is also the time of year when rats arrive seeking their winter quarters, so it is wise to take feeders down before dusk, and empty bird baths – rats are highly intelligent and are good climbers.

‘The Holly and the Ivy when they are both full grown...’ yes, Christmas is nigh, but please leave as much berry bearing holly and ivy as both provide valuable pop-up cafes with sustenance for birds and, in the case of ivy, insects too as the weather cools down. Happy Wassailing!

Otis Tarda

St Bartholomew's Church, Coaley
invites you to join them for
Music & Cake
Sunday 15th January
Doozie
3pm
Short informal & free concerts in church
followed by tea, cake & a chance to chat.
All Welcome

USEFUL CONTACTS

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