

# Coaley Parish NEWSLETTER



Issue no 137  
August / September 2024



**CRAG Summer Activities**  
**Produce Show Schedule Inside**

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
6th Aug	World Jungle play sessions	See p5	Rec
6th Aug	Friendship	2.30 pm	Hall
8th Aug	Knitting	2.30pm	3,The Street
12th Aug	Raffles Forest School Session	See p5	Rec
17th Aug	Childrens Rebounder dance class	See p12	Rec
22nd Aug	World Jungle play day	See p5	Rec
28th Aug	World Jungle Morning play session	See p5	Rec
30th Aug	Robot Reg phonics workshop	See June issue	
2nd Sept	Whist	2.00pm	Jubilee Room
3rd Sept	Friendship	2.30pm	tba
4th Sept	Produce Show entry day	5-8pm	Shop
5th Sept	Knitting	2.30pm	Mill Court
7th Sept	Produce Show	2pm	Hall
14th Sept	Community Shop AGM	10.30am	Jubilee Room
28th Sept	Crafting day	See p13	
1st Oct	Friendship	2.30pm	Hall
3rd Oct	Knitting	2.30pm	tba
7th Oct	Macmillan Coffee Morning	10am	Shop

Parish Council meetings are normally on the first Tuesday of each month, except August, at 7.30pm. See the council's website at [www.coaleypc.org.uk](http://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 September 2024.

email: [newsletter@coaleypc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@coaleypc.org.uk)

web: [www.coaleypc.org.uk](http://www.coaleypc.org.uk)

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

This issue edited by Stephen Cook.

Cover picture: *The CRAG summer cleanup (see p4).*

## REPORTING POTHOLES AND OTHER LOCAL HIGHWAYS ISSUES

All drivers will no doubt have noticed the number of potholes on the roads into and out of the village.

These are the a responsibility of Gloucestershire County Council, Highways Department. Highways have introduced an on-line street fault reporting system where the public can report issues in relation to potholes, other carriageway issues, broken paving slabs or streetlighting. If it is broken, dirty, damaged or dumped, and needs fixing, cleaning or clearing it can be reported.

The new system is called FixMyStreet - [fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk/](http://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk/) .

Reporting problems on-line is easy:

1. Enter a Gloucestershire postcode, or street name and area— or click “use my location” which will automatically detect where you are.

N.B. The top part of ‘Peak Lane’ is called ‘Lever’s Hill’ on the map.

2. You will be taken to a map centred on the location, where you can view reports already made in that area.

3. If it is a new issue you should confirm the report and Gloucestershire County Council will investigate.

4. If the issue appears to be closed but is still ongoing, you can make a new report in the same location by clicking

on the link at the very bottom of the page.

You can also download the sytem as an app so you can report potholes anywhere in the County.

If it is urgent or you can’t report something by using FixMyStreet:

- Please call 08000 514 514
- Highways customer service team are available Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm
- The Emergency team will be contactable outside of these hours.

## COFFEE MORNING



MacMillan Coffee Morning to be held in the Village Shop

5th October 10-12

Cake donations gratefully received (please leave details in the village shop or ring 07947791521).

Please come along for a delicious slice of cake and a cup of coffee to help support a very worthy cause.

Look forward to seeing you!

## CRAG UPDATE

The past couple of months at CRAG have been incredibly busy, with several events taking place throughout June and July.

We kicked off with providing refreshments for the Berkeley Green Park Run. Sarah and Jody had a wonderful morning supporting the runners under glorious sunshine, serving tea and homemade cakes. Their efforts raised £75 for the Rec fund.

We also held the Rec Summer Cleanup. We were amazed by the number of community members who joined us. Despite the hot weather, everyone worked hard, sweeping and clearing the tennis court, sprucing up the playground, trimming hedges, weeding, strimming, clearing the pump track, whitewashing the bus stop, and picking up litter. Thank you to everyone who helped!

The Great Big Coaley Quiz was a tremendous success, with great support from the village community. The quizzers enjoyed Susie's questions and the fish and chip supper, and we are delighted to report that we raised £1,100 for the Rec fund. A big thank you to Becky Sage for sponsoring the event, and to all who donated raffle prizes and volunteered on the night!

We also hosted the first of our children's events, the Croc n Roll music session which raised another £150 for our cause. Many thanks to our sponsors, Armstrong and North, and to

Sarah and Matt for running the event.

Looking ahead, we have two more children's events scheduled for the summer holidays: a fun 'rebounder' class to help kids burn off some energy and a pre-school phonics workshop in late August. Bookings for both events are now open.

We are also partnering with 'World Jungle' to offer free events on the Rec over the summer holidays for all ages. With play events scheduled for August 6th, 12th, 22nd, and 28th, there's something for everyone. Check out our Facebook page for further details.

In addition, we were fortunate to have Coaley Rangers (part of Girl Guiding Gloucestershire) give the bus stop next to the Rec a full makeover. It was looking very tired, but the Rangers came up with a wonderful new interior design. Thanks to Bailey Paints (Rabart Decorators Merchants) for donating the paint, and to the Rangers for doing a fantastic job with the painting.

Our committee is busy planning community events, advancing our design plans, and submitting funding bids. If you have experience in writing bids, taking minutes at meetings, or assisting with fundraising events and can spare some time, we would greatly appreciate your help. We especially need volunteers for a pudding night on October 12th and the Halloween Trail event on October 31st. If you can help, please contact us at [coaleyrecactingroup@gmail.com](mailto:coaleyrecactingroup@gmail.com).

FREE to all - under 8's need to be accompanied by adult

world  
jungle

# A Summer of free fun on Coaley Rec

"Bringing Play to life on the Rec in Coaley"

**Morning Family Play Session**

6th & 28th  
August  
10am - 12:30

**Afternoon Youth Session**

6th August  
1:30pm - 4pm



**Raffles Forest School Session**

12th August  
10am - 12



22nd  
August  
1pm-4pm

**Community Playday**

**Circus, Giant Bubbles,  
Sports and Games, African  
Drumming and more!**

SNACKS AND TOILETS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE COMMUNITY SHOP



## COMMUNITY SHOP

It was 3 years ago that we first opened the doors of the shop's new building, and it is now becoming an established part of the community. The WI will be serving teas and their fantastic cakes from the backdoors at the Produce Show on Saturday September 7th, and we will host the Macmillan Coffee Morning on Saturday October 5th. There are several groups meeting regularly in our café area and we are happy to offer the space to any others that are interested. Our coffee mornings with free coffee and cake take place on the 3rd Thursday of each month and will continue over the summer. Everyone is welcome.

I hope you are enjoying the wider range of products we now offer, and if you would like us to stock something else, please ask. We have reduced the prices of our wine this month and are also keeping a selection of ready chilled white and rose wines. Croissants, pain au chocolate and cinnamon buns from Hobbs are available for a trial period on Saturday mornings. Lillie B is baking a large cake once a month that we sell by the slice.

Our AGM is on Sat Sept 14th at 10.30am in the Jubilee room. The purpose is to elect members of the committee who are responsible for the day to day running of the shop, helped of course by our faithful volunteers. Only members of Coaley Shop Association can vote at the AGM, so if you would like to join please ask for a membership form in the shop. There is a one-off charge of £10.

## COALEY C OF E PRIMARY ACADEMY

The summer term is always a busy term filled with excitement, reflections and anticipation for forthcoming change and transitions. Despite the very temperamental weather this term, the children and staff have had a wonderful end to the 2023-2024 academic year.

A huge highlight of the term was 'Coaleyfest' and it is still being talked about now. We were blessed with glorious sunshine and the atmosphere was just sensational. A huge thank you to all of those involved with organising this incredible event.



One of the really special and memorable moments during Coaleyfest was the debut of our new school song 'As a family, we flourish'. The children worked with The Music Works, Gloucestershire, in the spring term to write lyrics and create the musical accompaniment. A small selection of pupils visited the studio to record and film parts of the song and the remainder of the song was completed in school. The lyrics really capture every aspect of our school vision and

values and it was truly special to see children performing it with such passion and enjoyment. Please visit the home page of our school website to enjoy our special filmed version- I am sure you will agree that it is a masterpiece!

As well as seeing lots of musical talent evolve amongst our children this term, we have also seen fantastic commitment to different sports and we have celebrated a number of sporting achievements both inside and outside of school. It was wonderful to participate in Dursley and District Primary School Sports events and a special 'With the Ball' festival earlier in the term. At both of these events, adults commented on the exemplary behaviours, skill, team spirit and moral support the pupils demonstrated. All of the children participating in these events were fantastic ambassadors of Coaley C of E Primary Academy.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole community of Coaley for their continuing support for the school during the past academic year. A special thank you to the wonderful staff, governors and volunteers who devote so much time and care to ensure the school is the best it can be and our children receive the best education and opportunities here. At the end of this academic year, we say farewell to our Year 6 children and several members of staff who are moving on to pastures new. We wish everyone the best of luck in their next exciting adventure and hope that Coaley holds a special place in their heart to look back on in years to come.



It was lovely to celebrate our Year 6 pupils at the Year 6 Leavers' Service in Gloucester Cathedral earlier this term amongst lots of other schools within our Diocese and Trust.

I look forward to welcoming our new Reception children into school in September as well as the wider school into a new academic year. I am excited to share that we will be having some decorative works and storage erected over the summer holidays which will make our learning environment tidier and more effective.

Have a wonderful summer break making special memories with your loved ones,

Best wishes,

Miss Thomas

## PLAYGROUP

It has now reached the end of term and what a fun, busy year we have had! Some of the books we have enjoyed this term have included commotion in the ocean, Kitchen Disco and Supertato. We have said a sad goodbye to our children moving on to school and we wish them all the best for their new journey at big school. We look forward to welcoming some new faces to playgroup in September and seeing how much the children returning have grown over the summer.

### Fundraising

The SheepHunt is returning on Sunday 15th September. We will be collecting cake donations and donations for the tombola so please let us know if you are able to donate cakes or tombola prizes. We will also be looking for volunteers to help out on the day so please let us know if you are able to offer an hour of your time. We are very grateful to everyone that gets involved whether that be dressing a sheep, donations or helping out on the day. This is a crucial fundraiser for the playgroup and we look forward to a day of fun sheephunting.

### Availability

We are still very busy and encourage

those in the village that would like to bring their child to Coaley playgroup to get in touch to add your child's name to the list as soon as possible. We have limited preschool spaces remaining for September 2024 so please let us know if you would like to be added to the waiting list.

## CADS

We have great pleasure in announcing that our 2024 Pantomime will be 'Alice in Pantoland' with four performances in the Village Hall between 28th-30th November. This year's open casting sessions for both Seniors and Juniors were met with tremendous enthusiasm. We had such a fantastic turnout that we've created additional roles to showcase all the incredible talent!

Rehearsals are due to start at the beginning of September and we are excited to bring this production to life under the expert direction of Steve Birkbeck, with additional musical and scriptwriting assistance from Emily Smith! Tickets will go on general sale through the usual channels of the CADS box office and the village shop at the beginning of October. Keep an eye on our Facebook Page for further information from September.

### September 2024 Playgroup Session Times

	Morning session	Full session
Mon, Tues, Thurs	8:50am – 12:50pm	8:50am – 2:50pm
Weds and Fri	8:50am - 12:50pm	closed

**Sunday 15th Sept 11-16.00 Coaley Village Hall**

**Come along to Coaley Village Hall and buy your Sheep Map from 11.00 then find all the disguised missing sheep in the village before coming back to the hall for refreshments, entertainment and the opportunity to vote for the best dressed sheep.**

**If you'd like to sponsor a sheep or dress one yourself please contact Susy Keating on [phoebuscar@gmail.com](mailto:phoebuscar@gmail.com)**

**COALEY VILLAGE PLAYGROUP PRESENTS**  
registered charity no 1088208



# **Coaley Sheephunt 2024**



## COALEYFEST

Saturday 29th June saw a beautiful sunny day for this year's CoaleyFest and hundreds of you came out to eat, drink, dance, play and support our fundraising efforts for the school. CoaleyFest was dreamed up by Lisa Miles back in 2013 and this year was the 9th time it has taken place. Over the years Coaleyfest has been through a range of changes and variations, but something that has been a constant has been the support of our local community. From the members of the WI and the Village Fete committee, to the team from The Old Fox running the bar, musicians and bands and LCS Cheerleading donating their time to entertain, our excellent compere Wills Allan, fantastic photography from Mike



Davis, sponsorship from Rocket Rentals, Everhot and N-Virocycle, catering from local small businesses Megabite and Mama's Woodfired Pizza and a veritable army of volunteers both from the school and the village; it was a real community effort and a really lovely day. Thank you so much to all of



*Ella and Susy with Paul from The Usual Suspects*

you who helped make it happen.

This year saw the return of Alice and Sophie Folk, The Disclaimers and The Usual Suspects (long time CoaleyFest favourites) as well as Bohemian Bar Thieves, Dursley trio NightLounge and exciting debut performances from Alaturka (AKA Abdul Kologlu from Megabite), beautiful music from Coaley Handbell Ringers and a rip-roaring set from Dursley student band Reminiscence (*left*) whose youth and massive talent were the talk of the day. The children of Coaley School performed their new school song to rapturous applause and brave pair of students Liv and Bea from Choir Club even got up on stage to sing with one of the bands. Special thanks go to Abdul, a parent at the school (*right*), who on Friday evening was delivering benches and seating to the school, was back first thing Saturday morning to set up, provided us with a freezer for our student ice-cream sellers, performed a selection of traditional music accompanying himself on the Turkish Saz, served burgers all day at

Megabite, was litter picking on the field with his youngest daughter as the sun went down at the end of the night and who then came back Sunday morning to pick up the benches, help with the last bits of clearing up and make a generous donation to the school.

Anyone who has ever organised CoaleyFest will tell you that the hardest part is finding volunteers and we are so very grateful to every single one of you (and there are just too many of you to



name here) who came and pitched in with marshalling, manning the door, first aiding, helping on the stalls, setting up the games, setting up and clearing away. Whether you did an hour on the door or worked the whole weekend at CoaleyFest, or just came along and cheered the bands, it wouldn't have happened without you. Thank you.

Susy and Ella on behalf of Friends of Coaley School (FOCS)

## WI

Coaley WI were lucky to have good weather for the June meeting when 15 Members visited a garden in Frampton on Severn. We were welcomed by the owner and given a tour of the garden.

The garden was set up as a series of rooms with different planting schemes starting with a paved walkway through grasses and ornamental fish into a cool tree lined avenue. This led on to a circular lawn with shrubs and trees and then onto a kitchen garden edged with fruit trees. There were further lawned areas, greenhouses and compost area all very neat and well maintained. The patio area had been set up with tables and seats where we were able to discuss the garden, chat and eat the supper we had brought.

In June we were pleased to be invited to Coaleyfest and set up a pop up WI cafe with the usual drinks and cakes though no Vintage china. The hot sunny day was great for enjoying the music and atmosphere and the cake went down well though there was less demand for tea and coffee which was to be expected . Thank you to all our members who baked and helped out on the day and to those of you who supported us at the event.

In July we are having an evening of craft and fun when we put together our sheep for the sheep hunt later in the year.

There is no meeting in August but we will be making and baking for the Produce show when the cafe will be

open as usual. Our September meeting is a talk on Reflexology which you are welcome to come along to. Wine or juice on arrival, visitors pay £4 on the door and there is tea and biscuits at the interval. We hope to see you there.

June Dunlop  
Secretary  
coaleywi@hotmail.com  
facebook: coaleywi

## VILLAGE HALL

Exciting new plans are being drawn up to extend the Jubilee Room, which is behind the stage of the village hall.

This involves building an extension to include a toilet and kitchenette. There will also be a lift to allow disabled people access. At present the only access is by stairs from the outside and inside. The installation of a toilet would mean that users of the Jubilee Room would no longer have to walk through the main hall or round the outside to use the facility. Similarly the kitchenette would allow users to make hot drinks and wash up without using the main kitchen.

This is in the early stages and Planning Permission is being sought. It is important to note that NO spaces would be taken from the car park.

## LEARN TO PLAY WHIST

An opportunity to learn how to play whist is being given on Monday 7th October in the Jubilee Room at 2pm.

The best way to learn how to play is to play it. There will be a one to one opportunity to learn this interesting game and then take part in the monthly sessions afterwards.

Whist is not a difficult card game to learn but provides stimulation to the brain and good company while playing. The monthly sessions are usually about 2 hours long, but there is a refreshment break during the afternoon. They are usually on the second Monday of each month.

If interested please contact Barbara on 8890679 or [barbaradavis4119@gmail.com](mailto:barbaradavis4119@gmail.com)

COALEY RECREATION GROUNDING

CRAG PROUDLY PRESENTS

PRIMAK  
FITNESS FOR SENIORS 50+ YEARS

CHILDRENS REBOUNDER & GAMES WORKSHOP

£10 PER CHILD INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN

SATURDAY 17TH AUGUST 10:30 - 12:00 COALEY VILLAGE HALL

SIGNUP HERE OR EMAIL US

FOR CHILDREN AGED 4-8 ADVANCE BOOKING REQUIRED

SPONSORED BY OUR FRIENDS AT

CAMP 4-2-11

COALEYRECREATIONGROUP@GMAIL.COM

CRAG



PRESENTS

# Autumn Wreath Workshop

*Hosted by Jess from Spills & Swirls*

Saturday 28th September  
Coaley Village Hall

£35.00 per person

Choose between:

Morning Session - 10am - 1pm

Afternoon Session - 2.30pm - 5.30pm

Ticket includes wreath workshop,  
all required materials and  
refreshments.



Autumn Wreath making  
- morning session



Autumn wreath making  
- afternoon session

<https://www.coaleyrec.co.uk/events>

Kindly Sponsored By



**SOFAS & STUFF**

## NURTURE NATURE

With the summer holidays upon us, thoughts inevitably turn to visits to the seaside, and the delights of fish and chips and ice creams on the promenade. And gulls - watching to snatch a chip or two from our hands, a feat they manage so expertly that they swoop in, get the booty and fly off without touching the person who'd been looking forward to lunch. To understand why they are now such a problem, we must look at the reasons for their urbanisation. In Scotland – Gull Central for our islands, a BTO study informs that there are numerous reasons for gull invasions, consisting mainly of Lesser Black Backed Gulls, Herring Gulls and Black Headed Gulls - such as loss of nesting sites, dwindling fish supplies, and warming seas. Urban rooftops provide safe nesting sites, with no predators. Although they have been recorded as nesting in urban sites since the early 20th century, it was the Clean Air Act of 1956 preventing landfill operators from burning rubbish, which provided gulls with their golden opportunity, which they seized. It is estimated that there are 1,000 pairs in Bath and 3,000 in Cardiff. With Wimbledon and Euro soccer now completed as I write this consider slowing down your lives for a few days in the summer sunshine by taking time after work and at weekends sitting in your garden in different places and at different times. As well as lessening stress and forgetting work problems for a while you will be surprised at what the wildlife is up to. Most birds will have finished breeding

and will be skulking away in the undergrowth moulting – garden birds losing their tails and shedding feathers ready to meet all comers in the early autumn to claim territories – chasing away intruders, even those from their own broods: choosing vantage points from which to sing around their territories to announce that 'this garden is mine.' Also, you will be fascinated to watch the hovering species of wasps, bees and flies and others gyrating around favourite flowers and foliage – in fact, you may well be mesmerised. Overall garden birds have had a pretty rough year for survival and revival and many species are not keeping up with their annual numbers. Sitting silently outside today I caught a movement – something dark -about the size of a bumble bee, and as I watched it came again, climbing rapidly up the side of a planter, possibly attracted by the live mealworms we feed our garden birds – it was a pygmy shrew, and these smallest of British mammals need to eat three times their weight a day in order to survive, since as a prey species they use up a great deal of energy rushing about at great speed. And a fritillary butterfly landed briefly beside me, a great thrill as the Big Butterfly Count runs for the remainder of July until 4th of August, and reportedly 80% of our butterflies are diminishing in number, although there are encouraging reports about Red Admirals and Holly Blues bucking the trend. More on this next month.

Otis Tarda



# SARA

Severn Area Rescue Association

Doors Open at 10am  
Sharpness Lifeboat Station  
GL13 9UB

# SHARPNESS OPEN DAY

## SUNDAY 25TH AUGUST

Talk to our crews  
Watch them demonstrate their skills  
Experience what it's like to ride on  
the boats

### What's On

- Demonstrations ✓
- Food & Drinks ✓
- Kids Activities ✓
- Stalls ✓

## USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish Councillors	Martin Pearcy	890818
	Caroline Eardley	890139
	John Hobson	07715 558110
	Penny Wait	860191
Parish Clerk	Lynn Thornton clerk@coaleypc.org.uk	545880
Stroud District Councillor	Martin Pearcy cllr.martin.pearcy@stroud.gov.uk	890818
GCC Councillor	Wendy Thomas wendy.thomas@gloucestershire.gov.uk	
Vicar	Graham Stacey	709859
Village Hall	Lesley Chalmers	890788
Need a lift to Coaley Church? Co-ordinator	Isobel Farmer	890556
Tree Warden	Caroline Eardley	890139
Snow Warden	Jonathan Leigh coaleysnowwarden@gmail.com	860665 07767 660206
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