

Coaley Parish NEWSLETTER

Issue no 139

December 2024 / January 2025

Christmas Events
CRAG have been busy

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
1st Dec	Meet the Atrist	10.00am	Shop
1st Dec	A Very Coaley Christmas	4.00pm- 6.30pm	Hall
14th Dec	Messy Church Sat 14th Dec	10am	Church
15th Dec	Carols by Candlelight	4.00pm	Church
24th Dec	Crib Service	2.00pm	Church
24th Dec	Midnight Communion	9.30pm	Church
25th Dec	Christmas Communion	9.30am	Church
3rd Dec	Friendship	2.30pm	Hall
5th Dec	Knitting	2,30pm	1 The Street
9th Dec	Whist	2.00pm	Juilee Room
2nd Jan	Knitting	2.30pm	2 Betworthy
7th Jan	Friendship	2.30pm	Hall
13th Jan	Whist	2.00pm	Jubilee Room

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 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 Thursday 16th January 2025.

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: Coaley Woods by Mike Davis,

SHOP

Celebrating the mural

The Coaley Shop committee is so pleased to have commissioned the mural on the side of the shop. It's been a huge success and received many, many compliments. It's had a real impact as a contribution to the ongoing improvements in the heart of the village. We are pleased to be working in partnership with Abby Conway, CRAG and others to make Coaley a really special village.

Meet the Artist – Sunday 1st December. We'll continue to celebrate the artwork through a new range of merchandise designed by Abby. She will be in the shop from 10.00 until 12.00 to launch the new stock that will include tea towels and greeting cards. Good for Christmas and the rest of the year.

It's getting to feel a lot like Christmas At Coaley shop we're getting ready for the new Christmas season and we'll have some festive events and a wide range of goodies to help get you in the mood.

Watch out for an advent calendar with a difference – Get down to the shop on

1st December and you're sure to be in for a pleasant surprise.

Hobbs House taster day – To kick off the season we had a taster day to showcase some Christmas treats from Hobbs House Bakery to tickle your taste buds. These included stollen, almond topped mince pies and pumpernickel. There will be an order form for Christmas specials so you don't have to miss out.

Coffee mornings

Coffee mornings have been a great success. They are held on the third Thursday of every month. The last one of the year will be on Thursday 19th December and, of course, this will have a Christmas theme with mince pies.

Volunteering

We have a very active and dedicated team of volunteers who continue to offer an important service to people in Coaley and from further afield. If you would be interested in joining us please ask at the counter next time you are in the shop.

Christmas Opening hours:

Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th	9:00 – 12:00
Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day, Thursday 26th	10.00 – 12.00
New Year's Day, Wednesday	10.00 – 12.00

All other days during the festive period open as normal.

CRAIG UPDATE

As we approach the end of the year, we're thrilled to share that we've kept up the momentum with several successful fundraising events for the Rec. Our recent Autumnal Wreath-Making Event, led by Jess Spill of Spills and Swirls, was a lovely occasion. The hall smelled delightful, the wreaths looked fantastic, and everyone had a wonderful time—all while raising £400 towards our cause.

We also hosted the ever-popular Coaley Halloween Trail, which included additional activities in the village hall this year. With the help of a fantastic team of volunteers, the event was a great success. Many houses were wonderfully decorated, and both children and adults showed up in creative costumes. This event raised £450, and there was a lovely sense of community throughout the evening. We even gave our new mural a spooky makeover!

Additionally, we provided refreshments for the Berkeley Park Run again to boost our total and hosted a wonderfully relaxing Sunday yoga night with Sarah Cesek. Altogether, since the last newsletter, we've raised over £1,000!

We're also excited to announce that we've joined a crowdfunding initiative through Stroud District Council's match-funding scheme. If you'd like to support the regeneration of the Rec, a small donation of just £2 or £5 could make a big difference. Visit www.spacehive.com/craig to contribute.

For those who have visited the Rec recently, you'll notice some exciting new play equipment in the form of logs, which the children are absolutely loving. We've also cleaned the courts, repainted the lines, and added pickleball courts, with netball posts expected later this month.





We also had a group come together to plant spring bulbs, and we can't wait to see them bloom once winter is over. It's rewarding to see so much progress and to watch the community enjoy these new features.

We look forward to celebrating with all our CRAG volunteers at our final meeting of the year. Here's to a wonderful year of progress, with more village events on the way as we continue to apply for grants and funding behind the scenes build our new park and regenerate the rec.

A huge thank you to Josh from Keystone Environmental for clearing the hedges and brush at this important time of year to avoid disturbing nesting birds. He generously donated his time and equipment, for which we are very grateful.



PLAYGROUP

All of the children are now settled into playgroup and enjoying all of the activities and topics we have been learning. Some of our topics have included Space week, Halloween, Diwali, Fireworks and Remembrance day, It was lovely to walk around the village and see the poppy displays.

Over the next few weeks our topics will include Road safety week and Christmas.

Fundraising

With some of the funds raised from the sheep hunt we purchased a new shed to store our outdoor resources. We want to say a huge thank you to Matt Lorkin, Dave Cavill, Mike Davis and Ralph Blatchford for putting the shed up for us, it wasn't an easy job and we are so grateful!

Community support

We are very lucky to be situated in a lovely community and are pleased to be making links with the other groups and organisations within the village.

We were very pleased in being able to support Coaley Recreation Action Group with the Halloween trail and decorated a window with creations made by the children. CRAG did a

fantastic job and the trail was enjoyed by lots of families. We were invited by CRAG to visit the new play equipment on the rec and the children had so much fun exploring the new equipment.

We are looking forward to attending the Christingle service at the church and visiting the experience Christmas event.

Request

We would really love to paint all of outdoor fences to try and make them last a little bit longer. If you are able to donate any outdoor fence paint that you may have lying around in the garage we would be very grateful. Please get in touch if you can help.

Availability

We have very limited spaces and have a waiting list until September 2026. If you would like to add your child's name to the list then please email us.

Getting in touch

You can follow us on Facebook where we share lots of photos of our activities.

Email: coaleyplaygroup@gmail.com

Telephone: 07434364850

Playgroup Session Times

	Morning session	Full session
Monday, Tuesday and Thursday	8:50am – 12:50pm	8:50am – 2:50pm
Wednesday and Friday	8:50am - 12:50pm	closed

CHRISTMAS @ THE FOX

**30TH
NOV**

CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHT
THE ACCOUSTIC PALE TEAS
An exciting duo Lizzie & Luke, will be here with an array of well known covers to enjoy!

**7TH
DEC**

CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHT
D'ARTAGNAN IS BACK!
Singerr/accoustic
guitarist bringing the reggae beats & fun.

**14TH
DEC**

CHRISTMAS PARTY NIGHT
Popular duo - Luke
Gittins will be here
rocking the dance floor
with all your favorite
songs.

**19TH DEC
CHRISTMAS
CAROLS**

Get into the
Christmas spirit,
with Christmas
Carols, from Coaley
Choir 7.30pm

**CHRISTMAS
EVE**

Lunch served from
12-4pm, booking
advised.
Evening - Christmas
BEERS & CHEERS!

**CHRISTMAS
DAY**

MERRY CHRISTMAS.
Join us Christmas Day,
for drinks & mince pies
from 11am-2pm

**BOXING
DAY**

Kitchen closed. Open
from 12pm for drinks &
why not bring your
own food and we will
do the DISHES!

**CHRISTMAS QUIZ
30TH DEC**

Quiz Master Ellie, will be here with her big quiz of the year. Cash prizes, raffle & cheese boards available by pre order 7PM.....Book Now!

**THE BIG N.Y.E PARTY
LIVE MUSIC - DETAILS COMING SOON**

PLAYGROUP DONATION

Coaley Playgroup would like to extend a huge thank you to John Whiffin and Tylon Bachelli for their generous donation of £217, as well as the delightful story behind it.

Years ago, John and Tylon were part of a share club that started at The Fox. Back in 2008, one of their fellow members emigrated, leaving instruction that should the share club's funds ever amount to anything, the remaining members were to donate his share to a local charity.

Fast forward 16 years to earlier this year, when John, while moving some furniture around, stumbled upon the old paperwork from those share club days. After discussion with Tylon they decided to split the funds between the Air Ambulance and Coaley Playgroup, bringing this long-forgotten treasure to life in the most meaningful way.

We are incredibly grateful for their kindness and the thoughtfulness of this gesture. Next time any of us find ourselves at The Fox, we'll be sure to raise a glass to John, Tylon, and all their friends near and far who made this generous act possible.

Thank you, John and Tylon—you've brought more than just a smile to our little playgroup.

WI

Coaley WI's speaker in October was Jo who is the founder of Charlies Charity. Jo contracted breast cancer at the age of 31, She discovered a lump in her breast whilst on holiday. Her first contact with cancer had been with her grandad whilst still a child.

Jo became pregnant and had a still born daughter after suffering from cancer through her pregnancy. There were no support groups at the time and she wanted to meet people in a similar situation. She was introduced to Reiki to reduce stress and then trained as a therapist offering free treatment to people with cancer. She advertised a meeting in Gloucester News and 40 people came to the first session and it grew from there .

Jo has been fortunate to be offered premises for sessions. The buildings were not always immediately suitable, but were renovated and adapted.

Charlies opened in Gloucester in March 2016 and since then centres have been set up in Cheltenham, Forest of Dean and Cirencester. It is hoped to expand into other areas.

There are 60 volunteers around Gloucestershire and 3 paid staff.

Charlies was given the Queen's Award for Volunteer Services in 2022.

Treatments offered today are wide ranging and there is no time limit for treatment.

Ticketed events are held to fund raise and it is intended to open a cafe in Barnwood - in a building needing renovation at present. This will include a Food bank and a Men's Group.

Charlies is named after her grandfather.

A donation was made to the charity but members also made individual donations.

In November we have our AGM and reports have already been sent out to members for them to consider any questions or comments. Each month we have a flower competition where members bring a flower from their garden and our guest speaker chooses their favourite. There are points awarded for first second and third prize and at the end of the year, the person with the most points gets a prize. After this we will have our own version of the Generation Game - Nice to see you, to see you, Nice!

Away from our regular meetings, members have attended outings with other WI's to the National Arboretum and Waddesdon Manor, Conferences meetings and craft activities on Zoom and other are going to the Gloucestershire annual WI Christmas concert in Cheltenham in December. In December we also have our annual Christmas meal which gives us a chance to meet up with friends and partners and chat over a drink and meal.

Our programme for 2025 is being

completed and will be available in December. We hope there is something in there for everyone. Visitors always welcome. Entry fee includes a glass of wine or juice on arrival, an evening's activity/talk and tea and biscuits at the interval all for £4. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the village hall.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

A huge thank you to everyone who attended, baked or helped out at the Macmillan Coffee Morning held in the village shop. We raised an amazing £700 to support those affected by cancer.

NEW CHURCHWARDEN

I am writing to introduce myself to the local community as the newly appointed churchwarden of St Bartholomew Coaley. It is a great honour to take on this role and I look forward to serving both our congregation and the wider community.

As churchwarden, I am committed to maintaining the spiritual life and physical upkeep of the church, as well as supporting our Vicar Graham Stacey and fostering a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all. My role also involves ensuring the church is a safe and inclusive space for worship, reflection and community events.

I would like to extend a heartfelt invitation to all residents to visit our

church, whether it be for regular services, special events, or just a moment of quiet reflection. We also welcome those who want to get involved in the life of the church, whether volunteering, attending social activities, or contributing to the church parish giving scheme. At this moment in time, we need someone willing to take on and be our Safe Guarding Officer, our DBS checker, cleaning of the church and helping with the up keep of the cemetery and helping with messy church. All of these things don't require you to come along to Sunday worship (although it would be lovely to see you). The reality is that the church runs on volunteers and is funded by donations from the lovely people just like yourself. Taken from another church letter "Whatever you think about the apparent riches of the Church of England, the day to day running costs is in the hands of the local people." Each year, we try to cover all the costs, but sadly we are usually short and if that continues, we may not have a church in the village. "The church

building is there for you. Feel free to come inside, enjoy the interesting history and feature of the building, find a space for some quiet, or to reflect and pray.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions. I look forward to working with the wonderful people of Coaley.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope to connect with many of you in the near future.

Warm Regards.

Karen Grimwood

Churchwarden St Bartholomew

karen@stbarts-coaley.org.uk

Tel no. 07733304079

15 The Close

Upcoming dates for your diary:

- Christmas Bazaar – Sunday 1st Dec 2024 – Village Hall
- Messy Church Sat 14th Dec – 10am – Church
- Carols by Candlelight – 15th Dec 2024 16 00hrs - Church
- Crib Service Tuesday 24th Dec 2024 – 14 00hrs – Church
- Midnight Communion – Tuesday 24th Dec 2024 – 21 30hrs – Church
- Christmas Communion – Wednesday 25th Dec 2024 – 09 30 - Church

St Bartholomews Church and Coaley Produce Show



A Very Coaley Christmas

**Coaley Village Hall
Sunday 1st Dec 16.00-18.30**

**Entertainment from Frampton Silver Band
and the children of Coaley School**

**Make your Christmas gifts with
Paint-a-Pot**

Christmas Cards and Wrapping Paper

Homemade cakes and mulled wine

Craft Stalls

The Big Christmas Light Switch On!

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREES

with Longfield Hospice in partnership with Just Helping

If you are looking for an eco-friendly way to dispose of your Christmas trees,

Longfield Community Hospice can help you out with their annual Christmas tree recycling collection service in partnership with charity JustHelping.

In return for a voluntary donation, Longfield charity's team of volunteers will collect your trees from your home, at the end of the festive season, and take them to be chipped and recycled at recycling sites across Gloucestershire, including Painswick Rococo Garden, where they are chipped into mulch and reused locally, making this the most eco-friendly way to dispose of your tree.

Hoping to collect and recycle more trees than ever this year, Longfield are aiming to raise more than £72,000, which could help fund over 1,300 hours of Hospice at Homecare, wellbeing, bereavement and counselling services. This is a huge operation for Longfield and last year an army of volunteers collected as many as 3742 trees over four days from households throughout Gloucestershire.

The scheme is endorsed by Stroud District Council and Gloucester City Council (working with Ubico) is also supporting the scheme by providing

two recycling sites.

To arrange collection of your tree, simply visit www.just-helping.org.uk/register-tree and enter your postcode, where you can make a voluntary donation to your local community hospice. Bookings can be made from 15 November until 7th January 2025

All money raised helps to fund the hospice's vital work supporting patients, families, and carers across Gloucestershire.

The fundraising team are also looking for volunteers, vans to collect Christmas trees, and tree chippers from Sunday 11th to Tuesday 14 January 2025. To volunteer either with your time or if you have a van or chipper, then please contact the events team on 01483 886868 – check this or emailevents@longfield.org.uk.

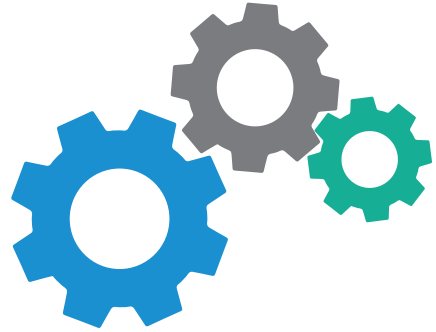
As Kirsty Murray - Longfield's Fundraising Manager, says:

"This year we're hoping to make this the best Christmas Tree Recycling Campaign ever and are so grateful to all those who are helping make this event happen. Please register your tree for collection – it's a convenient and charitable way of disposing of your tree sustainably and ensuring it doesn't end up in landfill. This means no needles in your car and no trips to the tip. We can do all the hard work for you whilst at the same time you are supporting your local community hospice.



Coaley & Uley **C**limate **A**ction **N**etwork
(CUCAN)

REPAIR CAFE



THROW IT AWAY? NO WAY!!

SUNDAY 12TH
of January, 2-4pm

ULEY **VILLAGE HALL**

Bring and learn how to repair your broken things...



or just enjoy some **DELICIOUS REFRESHMENTS**

For queries or to volunteer your skills to help others repair their things,
contact us on: coaleyuleycan@gmail.com



“By getting involved with our campaign you are helping Longfield’s Hospice give free care and support, 365 days a year to patients, their families and carers in Gloucestershire. By giving a voluntary donation, you will be making an enormous difference locally.”

Find out more about our Winter Campaign and how your local hospice can help you or your family at www.longfield.org.uk

X: @longfieldcare

Facebook: @LongfieldHospice

Instagram: @longfield_care

NURTURE NATURE

Referring to a recent Nurture Nature article on crows, a current news item states that crows can hold grudges against humans, who have harmed family members, for up to seventeen years.

The dramatic sea cliffs, crags and stacks of Rathlin Island, county Antrim, rise more than 200 metres above the Atlantic Ocean and host one of the UK’s largest seabird colonies, including hundreds of puffins. From September, when the puffins have left to spend the winter at sea, skilled teams started culling the Island’s predators, as the final phase of a project to protect puffins. In the first phase ferrets were targeted and none has been seen for a year. Puffin numbers had declined by 74% between 1991 and 2021. This initiative is a Life Raft Project led by a partnership with the RSPB Northern Ireland and the local community. The

traps are baited but scientifically designed to keep out non targeted species. This control scheme is necessary to enable the sea birds, especially puffins and their young, to survive.

A recent Kew Gardens report concluded that a third of the world’s tree species could be wiped out due to climate change and other environmental negatives. Species such as the whitebeam, spindle, hawthorn, and in Scotland the aspen. Trees are essential for wildlife. Spring blossom provides nectar for pollinators and the leaves are a food source for a range of insects, including caterpillars, leafhoppers and beetles. The berries attract a range of bird species for food in the autumn and winter including migrants, mainly from Scandinavia.

Although one is unlikely to spot a Scarlet Tanager on their washing line as the one recently seen in a Yorkshire garden, which has attracted hundreds of twitchers. This bird is a resident of the eastern seaboard of America, weighing approximately 30 grams and blown off course in the recent gales.

Bird Life International is a worldwide conservation organisation concerned in preventing species decline and extinction. Currently it has launched an appeal entitled ‘The Lark Descending’ to save the east African Liben Lark from extinction. It is quite shocking, should one log on to its website, to learn how many world species are on Red Lists, due not only to changing climate patterns but also to over

population, loss of habitat through over development and predation.

The recent extreme flooding in many areas of the populated continents and the decline of sea ice in both polar regions are causing alarm worldwide. The recent COP 29 (Conference of the Parties) has been commented in the press as 'not fit for purpose', and the fact that it was held in Baku, Azerbaijan where oil and gas exploration started, was a strange choice. COP 30, to be held in Brazil, will hopefully be more constructive, especially as the rain forests (the Lungs of the World) are getting near to tipping points due to deforestation, mining developments and increasing human populations, and it has recently been raised in the media about whether the last indigenous

tribes can survive.

Remember that December 21st is "Robin Day" for our national bird, so put out some Christmas treats for them. Let us all make New Year Resolutions to improve our environments and to discover Nature again for our children in 2025.

Otis Tarda



USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish Councillors	Martin Pearcy	890818
	Caroline Eardley	890139
	John Hobson	07715 558110
	Shona Pearcy	890818
	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