

Coaley Parish NEWSLETTER

Issue no 138

October / November 2024



Shop Art Installation Unveiled
Neighbourhood Watch

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
1st Oct	Friendship	2.00pm	Trip
3rd Oct	Knitting	2.30pm	Field End
7th Oct	Macmillan Coffee Morning	10.00am	Shop
7th Oct	Beginners Whist	2.00pm	Jubilee Room
14th Oct	Whist	2.00pm	Jubilee Room
10th Oct	Produce Show AGM	7.30pm	Jubilee Room
13th Oct	Repair Cafe	2.00-4.00pm	Hall
15th Oct	Hall AGM	7.30pm	Jubilee Room
3rd Nov	Fireworks	5:15pm	School
5th Nov	Friendship	2.30pm	Hall
7th Nov	Knitting	2.30pm	Harvest House
11th Nov	Whist	2.00pm	Jubilee Room
3rd Dec	Friendship	2.30pm	Hall
5th Dec	Knitting	2,30pm	1 The Street
9th Dec	Whist	2.00pm	Juilee 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 Saturday 16th November 2024.

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: Some of the school children who unveiled the shop mural.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Some of you may know that Ken Wibberley passed away earlier this year. Ken had been very active in the village for many years supporting his community and the Parish Council is indebted for to him for his work. Ken was Coaley's Neighbourhood Watch coordinator leaving the village without a connection to this scheme. The scheme started in Coaley some years ago in the days when we had a village bobby who would attend our meetings and once took great delight in demonstrating the effectiveness of the, then new, handcuffs on one of the members. We no longer have that connection with the police and Ken was instrumental in keeping the scheme alive in terms of keeping us informed of matters of importance through the newsletter.

The Neighbourhood Watch scheme across England and Wales is the largest charitable voluntary crime prevention movement with over 2.3m members and has been established with a number of groups set up in the surrounding area, but currently is not operating in any part of Coaley. We are fortunate in that crime in Coaley is relatively low, but is not entirely absent, and even relatively minor crime can have lasting consequence on its victims.

A Neighbourhood scheme helps residents by sharing crime prevention advice and information; running awareness campaigns; holding social events and awards for local people and businesses; leading community

projects, such as litter picks, a community café, flood defence response, presentations in schools and work with young people and children and community messaging with the police. When a scheme is registered with the Neighbourhood Watch Charity it provides access to on-line resources on crime prevention, including cyber-crime, burglaries and advice on keeping safe.

The scheme has adopted a community safety charter <https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/charter> which is a means by which Neighbourhood Watch members, local residents, businesses, and organisations, agree to do whatever they can together to provide an environment that is safer for everyone. It also provides a good route for Police engagement.

The Parish Council would like to have a group form in Coaley registered with the scheme to promote and help prevent crime in the village. This needs a small number of residents to volunteer to get the scheme going, the Parish Council will provide support to get a group going and offer a councillor to help with this.

We would like anyone who may be interested in forming in a scheme to let the parish council know by emailing clerk@coaleypc.org.uk or texting/calling me on 07485 056210.

Martin Percy
Coaley Parish Council Chair

COALEY COMMUNITY SHOP – ART INSTALLATION

Some 100 local people gathered outside Coaley Community Shop on 14th September to watch the unveiling of a new community art installation. The weather was fine as the crowd waited in front of the black plastic sheeting that covered the whole of one side of the shop.

Brenda Board, chair of the Coaley Shop committee, praised the imagination and enthusiasm of local artist, Abby Conway, who designed the mural. “We are so lucky to have such a gifted artist living in the village and someone who is prepared to give so much to the community”

Responding, Abby talked about how she drew her inspiration from the

natural world around us. “I was so pleased to be commissioned by the management committee and it was a pleasure to work with them on this important project” she said “this piece of art is a centrepiece for the whole village”.

Children from Coaley Church of England Primary Academy pulled down the sheeting to reveal the completed artwork which features animals, birds and flowers that we see all around us in our beautiful rural countryside. Made of wood and metal the colours and textures change their appearance as the light changes.

The installation is the culmination of a real family and community project. The new shop was built in 2021 by Abby’s husband, Steve Birkbeck, with help from many people from the village.



CADS
PRESENTS

Alice in Pantoland



Coaley Village Hall
28th-30th November 2024

COALEY AMATEUR



DRAMATICS SOCIETY

COALEY VILLAGE SHEEPHUNT 2024

On Sunday 15th September the Street, Close and Fox Meadow were once again thronged with eager Sheephunters, keen to find all 28 of this year's fiendishly disguised sheep in aid of Coaley Village Playgroup. And once again the good people of Coaley turned out in force to support our fundraising endeavours. With each year the competition is fiercer and this year has been no exception. The costumes, positions and downright ingenuity of some of the sheep displays were staggering. We are so grateful to have so many of our village institutions taking part in the competition, displays from CRAG, the WI, Coaley School and The Church to name a few. As well as a whole number of villagers really show what a wonderful and creative community we live in.

We'd like to thank our sponsors Uley Brewery, Windowcraft, DCS, Bohemian Bar Thieves, Sage, The Old Fox, Coaley WI, Megabite, LillieB, PriceWriter, Cotswold Country Flowers, Lapley Farm Flowers and Cam Family Butchers for supporting the event. The final total is not yet in but we expect to have raised around £1300 for Coaley Village Playgroup which is absolutely amazing.

Many thanks go to all of the playgroup staff and parents who gave up their time to bake, serve tea, work the bar, organise the tombola, sell maps, do the trail, donate raffle prizes, decorate the sheep, set up the hall and clear up at the end. We couldn't have done it

without you. Special thanks to Clementine Keating (9) Coaley School who arranged the lucky dip, painstakingly wrapped all the prizes and then ran the stall on Sunday; your lucky dip alone raised £70. Very special thanks to the Coaley Hand Bell Ringers who entertained our sheephunters beautifully and even invited people up to have a go! You delighted us all at CoaleyFest and it was wonderful to see and hear you all again.

As is becoming tradition the BBQ was spectacularly managed by Brian Harper (designated Chief of Operations) and the elite BBQ team Mike Davis, Mike Wathen, Tim Kidner, Anne Morgan (who we believe got involved in an advisory capacity and ended up working at the BBQ all day) and Jackie Davis (who was similarly co-opted and not allowed to leave but did at least eventually get a passable cup of tea). This group have supported all of our fundraising events, moving gazebos around, baking cakes, offering advice, dealing with our Chair Susy's hopeless lack of organisation and always, always turning up. Any attempt to thank them results in a shrug and 'well that's just what neighbours do,' and then they all come and help again at the next thing. So, here's a 'thank you' in print. We are blessed indeed to have such generous and inspiring neighbours.

According to popular vote the winners of the Sheephunt are as follows:

1st Place Best Dressed Sheep 2024
'Bubble Baaath'

2nd Place 'Bl-ewey'

3rd Place JOINT runners up 'Good Cop Baaad Cop' and Simone Baaaaales (The Old Vicarage)

Many thanks to all of you who dressed a sheep. The entries this year were absolutely brilliant (and completely mad in more than one case).

Look out for further Coaley Playgroup Fundraisers next year. We've provisionally booked Saturday 3rd May 2025 for the next CoaleyRocks and discussions are already underway for Coaley Sheephunt 2025. We look forward to seeing you there!

Susy Keating and Sarah Lorkin on behalf of Coaley Village Playgroup Committee.

1st place 'Bubble Baaath'.



CRAG UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2024

We've had a fantastic summer seeing so many people enjoying the Rec. Throughout the school holidays, we hosted a series of children's events, which were incredibly well attended. We were fortunate to partner with World Jungle to offer four play sessions, all free for attendees, thanks to funding from Gloucestershire County Council's Build Back Better initiative.

Hundreds of children and carers participated, enjoying activities such as bubble play, frisbee, drumming, circus skills, space hoppers, kite flying, and arts and crafts. The sessions were filled with laughter, creativity, and the joy of making new friends under the beautiful summer sunshine. It was wonderful to see so much fun, socialising, and a true sense of community spirit throughout the events.

We were also thrilled to have Emma from Raffles Forest School host a free session, which was a huge success, attracting around 80 children and carers. They enjoyed creating medals, necklaces, bracelets, wands, and more—all using natural materials. It was fantastic to see so many people taking advantage of these free events and making the most of the wonderful facilities the Rec offers.

Later in August, we hosted our 'Rebounder' class, run by PrimaX, out on the Rec under the sunshine. The hour of bouncing on mini trampolines left the kids both happy and exhausted

—but with just enough energy to join in the stomp rocket craft session, engineered by Matt and Sarah from CRAG. The activity was such a hit that many children stayed for several hours, fine-tuning their rocket designs. It was a fun-filled day for everyone, and we'd like to extend a big thank you to Camp 4-2-11 for their sponsorship. We managed to raise £62 for the project.

The end of the holidays brought us to our pre-school Robot Reg Phonics workshop with the lovely Aneesa. The sound in the box today was 's' and all the children slithered like snakes, sang songs, made their muscles strong and ended with a sticker and snack! Another £120 raised and kindly sponsored by Chapel Hill Nursery. It was a fun and educational experience, thoroughly enjoyed by the little ones.

We were also delighted to support two other fantastic community events in recent weeks. The unveiling of the stunning mural on the Community Shop, designed by Abby Birkbeck and installed by Steve Birkbeck, has truly set the tone for the direction we envision for our regeneration plans. We were especially thrilled to see the CRAG logo featured in the design!

Additionally, we were proud to decorate a sheep for the Coaley Playgroup Sheep Hunt—hopefully, our 'Sheep Rec' brought a few smiles along the way!

Now, with Autumn approaching, we have some exciting events lined up. On September 28th, we'll be hosting an

Autumn wreath-making workshop, and with only a few spots left, make sure to reserve your place soon!

Finally, the Halloween Trail is back this year, in aid of CRAG, and it's going to be bigger and better than ever! Join us on October 31st at the Village Hall collect your maps, follow the trail and return to the hall for a spooky evening filled with a best-dressed competition, a host of spooky activities, hot dogs, and a bar. If you'd like to decorate your house as part of the trail, we'd love you to be involved! Drop us a message at coaleyreactiongroup@gmail.com for any of our events.

A lot of work has been happening behind the scenes alongside all of our recent events.

We're excited to share that Renishaw's Charity Committee has generously awarded us a £500 grant for our

project. This is just one of many businesses that CRAG has been reaching out to over the past few months.

In addition, we've recently received approval from the Parish Council for several new purchases, funded in part by the Community Infrastructure Levy. As a result, we'll soon be adding wooden stepping stones, balance beams, and seating to the recreation ground. These additions will be perfect for play and can also serve as informal seating during community events.

We've now gathered the quotes for the construction of new paths, the trim trail, and parks. The detailed design for the recreation ground is nearing completion, and we'll be preparing bids for further funding and grants this autumn.



NATIONAL BELL RINGING COMPETITION

Coaley has received the privilege of being selected to host a national bell ringing competition. The event will take place on Saturday 7th June 2025.

Sixteen or so teams from locations around the UK will take part, each team ringing for some 12 minutes, and the competition will start at 11-00 am. Last year's competition was held in the Lord Mayors Chapel, Birmingham and 13 teams entered.

The competition is based on call changes with ringing in the "Devon style" which is very different from what you normally hear from Coaley bells.

A factor influencing the selection was the facilities that the village can contribute to the participants and their supporters, and, of course, the quality of the bells. The event will bring with it a number of fund-raising opportunities.

This is a brief preliminary announcement to make people aware of the event. Further detail will be made available in the future, and those details will include an explanation of "call changes" and "Devon style."

But if you would like to know more sooner, would like to get involved and help on the day, or have a comment, then please contact:

Sarah Lorkin –
mattandsarah.lorkin@gmail.com or
07891803463

Terry Chivers – tcchivers@gmail.com
or 01453890497.

VILLAGE HALL

Everyone is invited to attend the AGM of the Village Hall Committee at 7.30pm in the Jubilee Room on Tuesday 15th October. There will be a report on developments in the hall during the past 12 months and also to learn about the exciting plans for the future, especially for the Jubilee Room.

Copies of the Chair's and Treasurer's Reports can be obtained by contacting the secretary. There will be an opportunity to ask questions after the reports.

The New Committee is elected at this meeting. In particular a new Treasurer is being sought.

Contact 890679 or
barbaradavis4119@gmail.com

WHIST

A reminder that there is an opportunity to learn this game on 7th October at 2pm in the Jubilee Room. There will be no charge for this session.

Usually sessions take place on the 2nd Monday of the month from 2pm in the Jubilee Room. There is a charge of £3 for these sessions, which includes refreshments

Contact Barbara Davis 890679 or
barbaradavis4119@gmail.com.

A vibrant display of colorful fireworks in shades of green, blue, yellow, and orange exploding against a dark night sky.

FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Sunday 3rd November

6pm Doors open 5.15pm

COALEY SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

Please pay cash on the door

Adults £5

Children £2.50

Under 3's Free



**Hot Food & Drink
Available**

No sparklers, smoking or
alcohol please

COALEY PRODUCE SHOW

The Coaley Produce show held on September 7th was another great show. There were impressive entries in Arts and Crafts, beautiful flowers and fruit and delicious cakes and baking. The children's classes were popular with some sweet and colourful entries. Vegetable classes were less well represented as the weather has been so rainy. There was an enormous culinary squash - 19kg of it!

Trophy winners:

Gardens Cup - Jane and Martin Keay
Vegetable Cup - Mark Wyatt
G. S. Neale Cup for Fruit - Stephen Cook
Flower Cup - Jean Bryant
Floral Decoration Cup - Lisa Boden
Domestic Cup - Vanessa Sprague
Rose Bowl - Judy Cook
Coaley W.I. Cup for Arts and Crafts - Susan Tucker.
Jean Steel Cup for Children - Pippa Gibbs
Billet Cup for Children - Lana Lorkin.
Frank Workman Rose Bowl - Ros Jones
Winnie Brooks Cup for the Most Beautiful Flower - Paul Godden
Major Memorial Award - Mark Wyatt
Wooden Spoon - Chris Wilcox
Cospa Cup for Photography - Phil Sprague
Florie Curson Dahlia Cup - Lisa Boden
Centaur Cup for Coaley School (7 and under) - Daisy Davis
Centaur Cup for Coaley School (8 -10) - Kalla Balentine-Smith

Watch out for the 2025 Produce show Coaley calendar which will be on sale in Coaley shop in good time for Christmas.

AGM

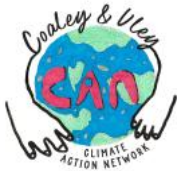
Our AGM will be held in The Jubilee Room on Thursday October 10th at 7.30 pm.

Last year we were lucky to have a demonstration from Fiona Porter from Cotswold Country Flowers. This year we plan to challenge you all with a produce based quiz including some old chestnuts (get it?)

We are always on the look out for anyone wanting to join the committee to help the continuation of this fine show which has been running for over 70 years. It is also a pleasant evening out and there will be no pressure for volunteers.

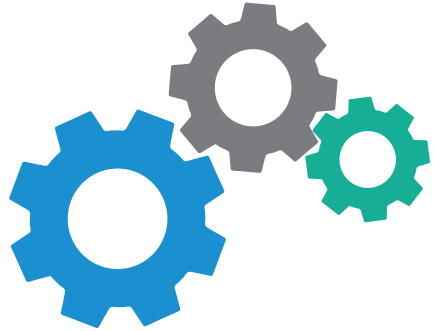
So come and join us for our AGM, a celebratory drink and a quirky quiz.





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

REPAIR CAFE



SUNDAY 13th OCTOBER,
2-4pm

COALEY

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



WI

August is a month we don't have a meeting but the members were busy with preparations for entries into the produce show competition with some good results. We were also busy baking for the café which we ran from the shop again this year. Luckily the weather was kind and many refreshments were enjoyed. Our profits on the day were over £350 and from this we donated £50 to the shop and £50 to the FOCS for the use of the gazebos. The following weekend we had two sheep in place for the sheephunt and it was great to see so many fantastic sheep around the village and lots of people enjoying the activity.

In August we had the sad news of the death of Maureen Wibberley. Maureen worked tirelessly for the village and its community including organising the Musichall nights, cream teas, outings, open gardens, the list goes on and she raised thousands for the village. She was also not only a member of the WI but on the committee and as President for some of that time. Her contribution to Coaley cannot be underestimated and we send our condolences to her family.

WI members gathered again in September for our meeting where we heard all about reflexology, a complementary therapy where pressure point on the feet and hands are massaged to free up energy flows and restore balance to the body. We heard about the history of the treatment

followed by a quiz (with two teams – the corns and the bunions!) concluding with a demonstration of the massage on a willing member.

On Oct 16th our speaker is from Charlies charity who aim to be there for anyone affected by Cancer with free holistic therapies and support for them and their families.

Nov 20th is the AGM Followed by our very own generation game

Visitors are always welcome, £4.50 payable on the door which includes the talk, a glass of wine or fruit juice on arrival and tea and biscuits during the interval.

PLAYGROUP

It has been lovely to welcome the children back after the summer break and to hear about all of the fun things they have been up to with their families. We have also welcomed some new children and their families to playgroup and they are all settling in well. This term we are focussing on all about me to get to know the children and what their interests are. We will be looking at the colour monster book to learn about feelings and we will also be looking at the world map and the different continents.

Fundraising

The SheepHunt was a huge success and we had lots of positive feedback about the day. It was really lovely seeing the community coming together and enjoying the event. We want to say

a huge thank you to everyone who helped out with the event. To those who made a sheep, helped out at the event, made a donation, sponsored a sheep, made cakes or attended the event. We are truly grateful to you all.

A special thank you to Susy Keating and Sarah Lorkin for arranging the whole event and spending so much of their time doing so! We are so grateful for all of your support and raising these crucial funds for our playgroup. We are so lucky to have such a wonderful community.

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.

NURTURE NATURE

A lovely day today in mid September as I write this month's article. Soon landscapes will be festooned in beautiful spiders' webs. Garden birds are emerging from their moults and one can often spot the discarded feathers. Unhappily, due to further decline in our British bird numbers continue in a downward spiral year on year. One hardly saw a starling or a house sparrow this year on feeders, or foraging on lawns and veg patches. It will be interesting to see what numbers constitute this autumn's murmurations

– so fascinating to hear and see overhead in places such as Chirton Gorse and Marden Cowbag near Salisbury Plain, and also around Slimbridge and Cam. Readers have reported that some of the songsters contributing to dawn choruses are absent this year, even the ubiquitous and well loved national bird, the robin, are in decline. But this autumn it is noticeable that robin numbers are down, meaning that they no longer have to sing from dawn to dusk in order to announce 'this garden is mine'. It is estimated that there are seven million robin territories in this country. Incidentally, Vera Lynn's song about a nightingale singing in Berkeley Square, was more likely to have been a robin, as they will sing in towns where street lighting means they have to be alert at all hours. Last month I wrote that I would say something about rooks. Rooks are gregarious and noisy birds, and tend to join jackdaws to form very large flocks which are quite a spectacle when they do one of their mass 'fly overs'. Not confined to the countryside, they can be found anywhere there are tall mature trees in which to build their messy nests, which they have to repair each spring, often attempting to bring sticks which are so large and unwieldy that they end up dropping them. They will eat pretty much anything, including small birds and mammals, and will mob birds of prey too. Like all corvids they are crafty and their 'rookeries' can be very large and distinctive, and are often in use for years, sometimes decades.

Otis Tarda

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