

Coaley Parish NEWSLETTER

Issue no 147
April / May 2026



Council Rec Consultation
Annual Parish Meeting - 13th April

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
2nd April	Knitting	2.30pm	Lapley View
7th April	Friendship	2.30pm	Jubilee Room
13th April	Whist	2.00pm	Jubilee Room
13th April	Annual Parish Meeting	7.30pm	Jubilee Room
18th April	Spring Nature Morning	10am–12 noon	Village Hall
19th April	Repair Cafe	2.00pm-4.00pm	Hall
3rd -4th May	Plant Swap		
5th May	Friendship	2.30pm	Jubilee Room
7th May	Knitting	2.30pm	Mill Court
11th May	Whist	2.00pm	Jubilee Room
27th Jun	Coaleyfest	12 noon-10pm	

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 May 2026.

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: The new play equipment in the recreation ground..

COUNCIL CONSULTATION

Proposal for the planting of a native boundary hedge between Coaley Recreation Group the 'The Street', from CRAG (Coaley Recreation Action Group).

As part of the continuing redevelopment and improvement to the Coaley Recreation ground it is proposed to plant a hedge comprising a variety of native species (such as Hawthorn, Rowan, Blackthorn, Silver birch, Hazel, Common oak) behind the current mesh fencing between the recreation ground and the main road. In a double row slightly set back from the current fence, comprising of around 400 saplings continuous along the current fence (see above).

The original design plan proposed removing the chain-link fence because it is unsightly and replacing it with a

wooden post-and-rail fence. However, this would not provide an adequate safety barrier and would also be expensive. Therefore, CRAG explored alternatives and decided planting a hedge would create a habitat for wildlife and be in line with their environmental aims. While in time it would also soften the appearance of the fence and improve the overall look of the area.

In the short-term there will be no further maintenance required for the Parish Council, CRAG will ensure they organise that any watering required for the new saplings during dry spells. Longer-term there will be an additional cost of around £200 to cut the hedge once a year outside of the bird nesting period. This will be paid for by the Parish Council.

The additional benefits of the hedge are that it aligns with our Bio-diversity



Coaley Recreation Ground:
Proposed hedge at maximum height of 5ft (height of current chain-link fence). Actual hedge to be kept lower



policy aims to enhance the local environment by creating a natural, cost-effective boundary and visual screen native mixed hedge will also support local biodiversity by providing food sources, shelter, and wildlife corridors for birds, small mammals, and invertebrates.

There is no cost associated with the saplings or their planting which will be by volunteers of CRAG.

The hedge will be maintained at a height no higher than the current height of the fencing around 1.5m (5ft), however this decision does not need to be agreed for several years and will be informed by comments received from residents. The expectation is that as the hedge matures the functional use of the current fencing is no longer required, so the fence could be left with the hedge growing through it in time or removed (at a cost) – again the decision on this is not required at this time, but any comments from residents will help inform current thinking of future plans.

This consultation is required as this proposal was not included in the original design scheme of the recreation ground

development. If agreed the hedge would be planted over the winter of 2026/27.

The Parish Council are asking residents for their views and comments of this proposal via email to the parish clerk on clerk@coaleypc.org.uk, to inform the Parish Council's final decision. By Friday 24th April 2026.

Martin Pearcy
Chair of Coaley Parish Council



WI

Coaley WI were delighted to welcome 14 visitors to our January meeting which covered the serious subject of Fraud. Our speaker Rhiannon says Fraud is the most common offence against people (41%) and last year in Gloucestershire there were 2914 Fraud offences committed totalling 14 million pounds lost. A new Government website 'STOP – Think Fraud' is very helpful with lots of information and advice which can support you or help you support others. If you think something may be fraudulent, take 5 minutes to think about what's happening, is it legitimate, how do I know, have I checked, what are they asking me for. If the activity is done on the phone, hang up and check the information using a different phone, not the one they have called you on as they will still be connected. We were advised 'make sure your email password is not the same as any other password, it should be something that is not connected to you at all. Consider using a password manager – they store your passwords and keep them encrypted. Keep doing regular updates on your phone & computer and do regular backups.

Our second talk of the year was about how to design your garden to welcome wildlife. Our speaker Elizabeth graduated in garden design in 2018 and has always leaned towards including wildlife friendly planting in her designs. A 'State of nature' report in 2023 recorded that the UK is one of the most nature depleted countries in the

world. With over 9000 hectares of the UK being made up of gardens (that's twice the size of Somerset) , we can all help to rectify this.

Some myths are that we should only grow native plants, leave our gardens messy, get rid of lawns and grow nettles but these are all untrue. Lawns can hold many plant species, there is no proof that dandelions and nettles are necessary and non native species of plants attract many types of insects. What wildlife does need is food, water, somewhere to bath, shelter and safety. Elizabeth had some beautiful slides of gardens and insects and recommended resources such as RSH plant finder, Crocus.co.uk and Gardeners world.

Alongside many others, Coaley WI donated and planted a tree on the rec in March and were glad of the dry weather for the occasion.

Our memberships renew in April so do consider joining us or you can pay on the door as a visitor. £4 admission includes a glass of wine or juice on arrival, guest speaker and tea and biscuits during the interval.

June Dunlop
Secretary
Coaley WI

e-mail: coaleywi@hotmail.com
facebook: [coaleywi](https://www.facebook.com/coaleywi)

CRAG COMMUNITY UPDATE

It's been another busy few months for Coaley Recreation Action Group (CRAG), with fantastic progress across a range of projects at the Rec.

Toddler Park – Construction & Opening

The new Toddler Park is now fully installed. The project reached its £41,000 fundraising target thanks to outstanding community support, including generous contributions from Cotswold Homes, Bromford, and many local residents.

CRAG has also installed palisade fencing around the park to improve

safety and keep dogs out, at an additional cost of £4,000. New seating has been added around the circle and along the paths to make the space more welcoming for everyone. An official opening event will be announced soon.

Nature Morning – 7 March

Our March Nature Morning, delivered with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, was a great success. Families enjoyed creating mini-ponds, wildflower pots, bug bundles and other wildlife-friendly features—both for the Rec and to take home. It was a brilliant mix of learning, creativity and community spirit.

Below: Testing the new play equipment.

Right: Planting the sponsored trees





Volunteers Clean Up the Paths

A huge thank you to our brilliant volunteers who turned out between the showers to clean and tidy the paths. Their hard work has made a real difference, helping to keep the Rec safe, welcoming and accessible for everyone.

The entrances and plaza area have also been re-rolled to improve the surface.

Adopt a Tree – 14th March

Our campaign brought together children, families and local groups—including CADS, the WI and the

Produce Show—to plant more trees at the Rec. It was wonderful to see the community investing in the landscape for future generations.

We have had more villagers wanting to sponsor a tree than the eight available. The good news is: more trees are available. If you'd like to adopt one, please let us know.

Hedge planting along the front fence has been postponed following a complaint to the Parish Council regarding the consultation. The hedge—recommended by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust—has been put on hold

for now. The school has taken the whips to plant around their site with the children.

Murder Mystery – 21st March

Our Murder Mystery evening was a sell-out success. CADS gave up their time to create a devilishly difficult and highly entertaining show to raise funds for the Rec.

A huge thank you to: Jody Acum for directing, CADS for the performance, SAGE Residential for sponsoring the event. Everyone who helped organise and support such an enjoyable evening raising much needed funds for the rec.

Coming Up

Spring Nature Morning – 18 April, 10am–12 noon (Village Hall) Themes include nest-making and natural dyes, along with all the usual crafts, games, tea, cake and refreshments.

Planting Workshops - Fiona Porter is running a series of planting workshops to help people build and improve their skills: 18 April, 26 May, 6 June.

CRAG AGM – will take place in May, when we'll report on achievements over the past year and share plans for the next phase of improvements. We'd love to see as many supporters as possible join us and help shape what comes next.

Thank you, as always, to our volunteers, supporters and partners who make these improvements possible.

For more information, to sign up or get involved:

coaleyreactiongroup@gmail.com

www.coaleyrec.co.uk/progress/infant-play-equipment

Below: Murder Mystery





Easter is just around the corner. We have a wide range of Easter specialities in stock, including Hobbs hot cross buns and Easter biscuits. We also have hot cross buns from Dangerfields, so an opportunity to compare and contrast. Easter eggs are a must so there is a delicious range of mini eggs, Cadbury's cream eggs and larger ones. If you won't be seeing your friends or family over the holiday you may want to send them a card. We have a range of seasonal cards.

And while we're on the subject of eggs, we have beautiful white eggs with bright yellow yokes. Ideal for painting or just for eating! Only £1.65 for half a dozen.

Cam butchers

As well as their familiar range of sausages, bacon and pork pies we now stock beef mince and chicken from Cam Family Butchers together with their small and large meat pies. You can find these in the freezer.

You can order Cam Family Butcher products up to Wednesday afternoon for collection from the shop on Friday morning.

Suggestions box

If you are enjoying using Coaley Community Shop (or maybe you haven't tried it yet) but you can't find what you want, we will always consider stocking new lines. Maybe there are things about the shop that we could do better. We are always looking to improve the service that we offer to our customers and are happy to receive your feedback.

There is a suggestions box on one of the windowsills or just have a word with the volunteer behind the counter. We always consider feedback and suggestions at our regular committee meeting. If you leave your contact details a member of the committee will respond to you personally.

Contact us

www.coaleycommunityshop.org

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

Easter Opening hours

Good Friday, 3rd April	10.00 to 12.00 noon
Saturday, 4th April	9.00 to 12.00 noon
Easter Sunday, 5th April	10.00 to 12.00 noon
Bank holiday Monday, 6th April	10.00 to 12.00 noon

COALEY C OF E PRIMARY ACADEMY

We have had an exciting start to 2026 at Coaley C of E Primary Academy, with the new Spring Term filled with memorable events, enriching opportunities, and wonderful achievements across the school. It has been a joy to see our children embracing every moment with enthusiasm, creativity and a real sense of community. Flourishing together as a family in all that we do.

One of this term's highlights has been our involvement with Cotswold Homes, who are currently building the new development in Coaley. They launched a fantastic competition inviting our pupils to design the child's bedroom for their new show home. The children's creativity was extraordinary, and the judges certainly had a tough job deciding on the winners. In the end, they selected joint winners, whose designs will be brought to life in one of the show house bedrooms. They also awarded a second and third place, each receiving a framed copy of their design which we are proudly displaying in school alongside generous vouchers in recognition of their hard work. All other entrants received an Easter egg for their wonderful efforts and imaginative entries!

We were also proud to host our annual House Public Speaking Competition. It was truly delightful to see children speak with such passion and confidence about a topic of their choice, using gestures, props, and

even a live pet cat to enhance their presentations! Thankfully, staff did not have to make the difficult decision this year; instead, our finalists performed to an audience of parents and carers, who had the tough task of voting for the overall winner. We were incredibly proud of every single participant.

As part of our wider curriculum offer, all children took part in First Aid workshops, learning key skills to help keep themselves and others safe at home and in the community. These practical sessions have been invaluable and greatly enjoyed by the pupils.

Earlier in the year, our Eco-Council worked extremely hard to prepare our outdoor areas, and their efforts are now shining through. The school grounds are alive with colour thanks to beautiful planters filled with tulips and daffodils, creating a cheerful welcome for everyone who visits.

Sport has also been in full flow this term. Children have represented the school brilliantly at cross-country competitions with Dursley District Sports and have enjoyed engaging cricket coaching sessions in school. Meanwhile, Owls Class have made fantastic progress in their music lessons and can now perform several pieces collectively on the ukulele—a wonderful achievement.

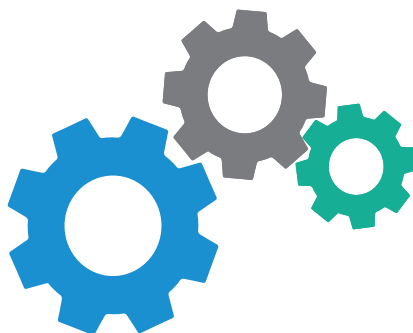
A particularly exciting milestone for the school is the near completion of our new cabin building, which is now in its final stages before we begin furnishing



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

REPAIR CAFE

THROW IT AWAY? NO WAY!!



SUNDAY 19TH APRIL

2-4pm, at

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



it. This space will make a huge difference to our school community, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who has supported this project. We look forward to celebrating its grand opening very soon.

As always, we are incredibly proud of our pupils and the vibrant school life they help create. Thank you to everyone in the Coaley community for your continued support, we look forward to sharing more exciting developments with you throughout the year.

PLAYGROUP

This term we have celebrated Chinese New Year, completed some science experiments during Science week and started our planting of cucumber, onions and broad beans. Over the next few weeks we will be learning about recycling during recycling week and starting our Easter activities.

Next term our focus books will include 'Goldilocks & the three bears', 'The very hungry caterpillar' and 'Handa's surprise'.

Donations

We are always looking for donations of particular items to support our themes

and topics so please get in touch if you have anything you think may benefit the playgroup.

Fundraising

We will be holding our first family bingo event which we are hoping will be a huge success. This may be something we do again in the future if it proves popular.

Availability

We are currently full and have a waiting list in place until September 2028.

Please get in touch if you would like to add your child to our waiting list, spaces are filling up fast.

Getting in touch

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

e-mail: coaleyplaygroup@gmail.com

Telephone: 07434364850

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

HOPPY EASTER

EASTER WEEKEND STARTS HERE

THURSDAY 2ND APRIL - KIDS ARTS & CRAFTS MORNING

Looking for something fun for the kids this Easter? We are hosting a morning full of Easter arts and craft activities followed by an Easter egg hunt around the pub. All materials and activities will be provided, so come along and have some fun with your family! Book your spot now.



FRIDAY 3RD APRIL - FESTIVAL OF FISH

On Good Friday we will be honouring tradition as we host our well-loved Festival of Fish! An array of delicious, market fresh fish and seafood dishes will be on our menu for both lunch and dinner, so book your table now.



SATURDAY 4TH APRIL - LIVE MUSIC JAY WATTS - 8.30PM

SUNDAY 5TH APRIL

Celebrate Easter Sunday with our traditional roast dinner and a treat for the little ones! Our Sunday lunches are very popular so act fast and secure your table.



2026 WOMEN'S SIX NATIONS 11TH APRIL - 17TH MAY

The Red Roses are ready and so are we. Beers and bar snacks await. Come down and cheer them on with us!



 @oldfoxcoaley

01453 890905

MEDITERRANEAN TUESDAYS

Tuesdays
from 5:30pm

Join us each Tuesday as we take you on a tour around the Mediterranean, with a different country taking centre stage each week. Your passport isn't required, just your appetite!

SAVE THE DATE
FOX FEST



QUIZ NIGHTS ?

Monday 20th @ 7pm

St Dominic's
Church Dursley

Monday 27th @ 7pm

Southmead
Hospital Charity

Cheeseboards available
for pre order!
Book your team of
up to 6 now! ??

MAY sneak peek

- Every Tuesday is Asian Night!
- Paint and Sip
- Gin Tasting

Stay tuned for more info



SPRING IS HERE!

The snowdrops and early crocus have flowered and finished. The primroses and daffodils are now out and my garden is full of hyacinths, pink, blue and white.

If you enjoyed the Big Bird Watch the British Trust for Ornithology runs observations all year round. Go to their website www.bto.org and see if there is anything of interest to you. There is also a local bird watching society dbwps.org which runs trips to various interesting places. During the winter our garden has been visited by two cock pheasants. One has been coming now for three winters, the other is a newcomer. Plumage is really vibrant, but it is possible to tell them apart as the neck rings are slightly different. The older one has been limping badly. However he's nearly back to normal now - perhaps you've seen him.

We have cleaned out and mended the bird boxes and they have all been checked out by blue tits and great tits so we are looking forward to them being used again. The blackbirds have been collecting nesting material but I haven't seen them doing anything urgently. However the jackdaws are definitely making nests and this year are building them underneath some solar panels!

The dawn chorus has begun, its really worth getting up around 6.30am to hear it - even if you only do it once - it is magical.

Parus Major

SUMMER VISITORS

House Martins: These lovely migrant birds, identified by their white rump, fly from Africa to nest here. They spend a long time making their mud nests under the eaves of houses. Please be tolerant of their building habits.

According to the RSPB their population has halved since 1969, and they are now on the Red List

Sand Martins: These migrants can be seen especially around sand quarries and sandy banks, where they burrow out their nesting sites. Plumage is sandy brown above and whitish below. Once numerous, they can be seen locally at Frampton on Severn lakes. These agile fliers make harsh twitter calls in flight.

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

Otis Tarda

FRIENDS OF COALEY SCHOOL (FOCS)

SATURDAY **27TH JUNE**

12PM-10PM

FAMILY FUN

BOUNCY CASTLE • CRAFT TENT • FIRE ENGINE • FACEPAINTING •
STORYTELLING (WITH SPECIAL GUESTS!) • HOBBY HORSE RACES •
TUG OF WAR & OTHER GAMES

LIVE MUSIC

THE DISCLAIMERS • JAY WATTS • ABADOOZIE & MORE

FOOD & DRINK

BBQ • PIZZA • SWEET TREATS • THE OLD FOX

COALEY PRIMARY SCHOOL, GL11 5EB

TICKETS ON SALE SOON

(ONLINE AND FROM COALEY SHOP & THE OLD FOX)



USEFUL CONTACTS

Parish Councillors	Martin Pearcy	890818
	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	Richard Dean richard.dean@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	Shona Pearcy	890818
Snow Warden	Jonathan Leigh coaleysnowwarden@gmail.com	860665 07767 660206
Community Shop		899000
Coaley WI	June Dunlop	890302
Friendship Group	Pat Grimwood and Isobel Farmer	890689 890556
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