

Coaley Parish NEWSLETTER

Issue no 143

August / September 2025

Packed CRAG Programme

Coaley Peak Day

Produce Show Schedule Inside

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
2nd Aug	Bat Evening	8.30pm	Rec
5th Aug	Friendship Group	2.30pm	Hall
7th Aug	Knitting	2.30pm	17 Betworthy
11th Aug	Whist	2.00pm	Hall
2nd Sept	Friendship Group	2.30pm	Hall
3rd Sept	Produce Show Entry Day	5pm-8pm	Shop
4th Sept	Knitting	2.30pm	Lapley View
6th Sept	Coaley Produce Show	2.00pm	Hall
8th Sept	Whist	2.00pm	Hall
13th Sept	Nature Morning	10am - noon	Hall
14th Sept	Coaley Sheephunt	11am-3pm	Start at Hall
17th Sept	Fascinator workshop	9.30am - 1pm	Hall
21st Sept	Coaley Peak day	10am - 4.30pm	Coaley Peak
27th Sept	Battle of Wits	7pm	Hall

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
Tuesday 16th September 2025.

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: *The new sensory garden on the Rec*

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE



Following the open meeting on the 8th July, although there were fewer attendees that were hoped for it was agreed to proceed with registering Coaley as a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Once registered residents, the scheme's registration link will be made public and any resident interested can register, whether to be actively involved or they just wish to have an interest and receive alerts and guidance.

We will have a further open meeting and invite our local police and PCSO officers along for introductions and discuss how we can work together with developing the scheme in the next couple of months.

We also discussed 'SpeedWatch' and there was interest in developing this along with the Neighbourhood scheme as there is a connection in the area of Anti-social behavior. There was interest express in the purchase of portable VAS (vehicle automatic Speed) detection equipment of the kind that Uley has along their main road. This will be taken back to the Parish Council for discussion.

Anyone having an interest in these that were unable to attend July's meeting is welcome to contact me directly on my District Councillor email, cllr.martin.pearcy@stroud.gov.uk.

Martin Pearcy

Chair, Coaley Parish Council.

RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERS



With the prolonged period of dry warm(hot) weather many have been out walking their dogs. The majority of dog owners take responsibility for any mess their dogs may leave and dispose of

it responsibly. However, there are an increasing amount of dog waste evident on paths and verges across Coaley, which is both unpleasant and potentially a health issue especially in and around the area of the recreation ground. There are bins around the village to dispose of the waste and additional ones can be added. Please can everyone walking a dog dispose of any mess appropriately and keep our village clean. If anyone sees someone not doing so can you gently remind them, or report it the council clerk. Thank you.

Coaley Parish Council.

Crag Update

Our Nature Mornings continue to thrive, bringing people together and raising awareness about how we can all care for our local environment.

In June, we teamed up with the Wildlife Trust to host a Bioblitz on the Rec – children and families took part in surveying local insects. We'll be sharing the fascinating results with you very soon!

July's Nature Morning focused on Bees, with support from the Stroud Beekeepers. We learned all about how to support our buzzing friends and enjoyed some fantastic hands-on activities.

Looking ahead:

- August's Nature 'Morning' will actually be a special evening walk to discover the world of Bats and see these mysterious night-time creatures in action.

Meet on the Rec at the Sensory Garden at 8.30pm (2nd August) to learn about bats, use bat detectors to track them, and find out how you can help them thrive locally.

A magical experience for children and adults alike – bring a torch and your curiosity!

- September's Nature Morning is all about Hedgerows – the wild larders and hidden homes of our countryside.



Learn how to spot what's safe to forage (and what to avoid!), get inspired to make treats like sloe gin and elderflower cordial, and discover the wildlife that relies on these living boundaries.

We'll also explore how to care for hedges and look at who's hiding in the hedgerows around Coaley.

We'd love to see you at one of these inspiring events!

Sensory Garden – Blooming Beautiful

The first stage of the Sensory Garden is now complete – and it's looking absolutely stunning (see cover picture). The flowers are in full bloom, bursting with colour and fragrance. It's quickly become a favourite spot for people to sit, relax, and enjoy the peaceful setting. If you haven't visited recently, we really encourage you to come and see it for yourself.

Due to the extreme weather, we're having to water much more than expected. If you can spare an hour to help keep the garden thriving, we'd be so grateful – please email us at: coaleyreactiongroup@gmail.com

We've also applied for funding to install water features in the garden, which will bring sound and movement to this tranquil space. We'll hear the outcome in September.

In order to complete the mounded planting areas on the Rec, we need 100 tons of topsoil. The Canal Trust

has kindly offered it for free – but we need help transporting it from Stonehouse. Do you have access to a 20-ton lorry, or know someone who does? Please get in touch if you can help.

Toddler Park Fundraising

We're actively fundraising for the new Toddler Park and are aiming to reach our target by autumn. Every contribution helps create a safe, imaginative space for young children to play. In support of this, we're applying for grants and planning a series of fun autumn events, including:

- Fascinator-Making Workshop
- The Big Quiz
- Halloween Event
- Bingo Night

Stay tuned for more details!

Volunteers Always Welcome

We always welcome help with small jobs around the Rec – even just an hour of your time makes a big difference. If you'd like to lend a hand, please email us at: coaleyreactiongroup@gmail.com

Our local young people have also expressed interest in giving the multi-use games area a makeover. If you can help with painting the shelter, prepping the space, or just being part of the team, we'd love to hear from you.

COALEY PEAK

Once upon a time Coaley village stretched from Coaley Peak to the River Severn, reputed to be the longest village in England. Coaley Peak is our landmark and our heritage. Couly Pike in 1639 'where to beholde young Men and Maids asendinge and descendinge, and Boies tumblinge down'.

Given to the National Trust in 1956 the nature reserve sits uncomfortably either side of the Frocester Hill Road somewhat separated from the village.

COME AND CELEBRATE COALEY PEAK

Sunday September 20th 2025

10 00 to 4.30

Look out from the misnamed topograph (there is a story here!) and the history

of the Severn Vale is spread before your feet. The Neolithic Burial Chamber on the hill, Fortress Uley Bury and King Arthur's Camm e lan (Camelot) The British Camp on the Malvern skyline. Cam Bridge where the last of the Viking hordes were flushed from Britain. Edward the second and Berkeley Castle, Henry II's mistress Fair Rosamund of Frampton, William Tyndale born at Slimbridge, Queen Elizabeth I slept at Frocester. The River Severn itself, the Ship Canal and the docks at Sharpness. The Wildfowl Trust, the Severn Bridge, Power stations, the Motorway and the Great Incinerator,

The whole world await you

Join us on Coaley Peak

Further details, maps for walking in the next magazine and in the Shop

PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY





COALEY NATURE

Bat Walk

Saturday 2nd August

8:30pm

Coaley Rec

Meet on the rec at the sensory garden to learn about bats, use trackers to follow them and learn how you can help them.

Proudly sponsored by:



Hedgy

wearehedgy.co.uk info@wearehedgy.co.uk

Please contact
coaleyrecreationgroup@gmail.com
to book your free place.

Kindly supported by experts from
the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust



Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust

PLAYGROUP

We have had a very busy term with lots of fun celebrations with our children that will be leaving us to go to school. We had a leavers trip at St Augustine's farm and we all had a lovely time. We also had an end of term party with all of the children and invited Magic Marie in to entertain the children. It was lovely to see all of the smiling faces and laughter. We wish all of our preschoolers good luck moving on to school and we are looking forward to seeing our younger children return in September and to see how much they have grown over the summer. We will also be welcoming some new families and we are looking forward to getting to know them all.

We hope all of our families have a lovely summer.

Fundraising

The sheep hunt will be returning on Sunday 14th September, please save the date!

Community support

Thank you for the continued support from the community, it is so lovely to be a part of this village.

Playgroup have joined the produce



show this year and we are looking forward to seeing the children's artwork at the hall along with all of the other creative entries.

Availability

We currently have a waiting list until September 2027. If you would like to add your child's name to the list then please email us. We recommend getting in touch as soon as possible if you live in the village to secure a place for your child.

Getting in touch

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

Email: coaleyplaygroup@gmail.com
Telephone: 07434364850

September 2025 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

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.

COALEY VILLAGE PLAYGROUP PRESENTS
registered charity no 1088208

Coaley Sheephunt 2025



**Sunday 14th Sept 11-15.00
Coaley Village Hall**

COALEY FETE

A Glorious Day for Coaley — Thank You for Making Our 2025 Fete a Success!

What a day! On Saturday 28th June, the Coaley Rec was once again alive with laughter, friendly faces, and the unmistakable buzz of our village coming together for another unforgettable Coaley Country Fete.

Under hot, breezy skies, the rec looked a picture, filled with games, the stage, the arena, and our new paths. We were delighted to see so many villagers, families, and friends enjoying a classic day of fun and community spirit.

There was something for everyone — from the ever-popular dog show, lively children's races, and fiercely contested



tug of war, to the always-hilarious welly wanging, traditional fete games, bubbles drifting across the field, and some very special guests who made the day extra memorable.

A definite highlight was our Tremendous Tractors Competition, which saw families getting wonderfully creative as they decorated wooden tractors to win prizes — well done to everyone who took part! Adding to the excitement, two magnificent real tractors were on display for visitors to admire up close — and for the goats to enjoy too!

For our youngest visitors, the bouncy castle and soft play kept the giggles going all afternoon, while local musicians filled the air with music, giving the whole fete a warm, joyful atmosphere. The bar, expertly run by The Old Fox Pub, kept everyone

refreshed in the summer sun, the shop provided ice creams, and the WI's delicious tea and homemade cakes were, as always, a big hit. The mouth-watering hog roast was also a huge favourite, keeping everyone well fed and ready for more fun.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our amazing volunteers, musicians, the team at The Old Fox, our WI bakers, hog roast heroes, guides leaders, first aiders, Active Lifestyles, and everyone who gave their time and energy to make the day run so smoothly. From putting up bunting to clearing away at the end, your efforts make the fete the special day it is.

And of course, thank you to everyone who came along, joined in, and made this year's fete such a wonderful



celebration of our village. This day isn't about raising money — it's about bringing people together, and that's only possible thanks to the generosity of our sponsors. Once again, Coaley showed just how much that means.

Thank you for being part of it. See you in the summer of 2027!







More pictures from the Coaley Fete



PHEW WHAT A SCORCHER!



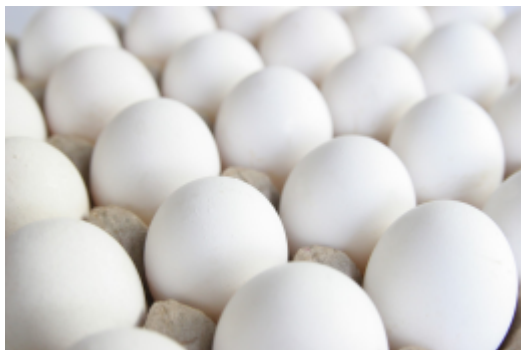
We've been experiencing some very hot and uncomfortable weather recently and there could well be more on the way. Whilst we might enjoy the sunshine the heat and humidity makes life very difficult for many of us, especially older and more vulnerable members of the community.

In the winter Coaley shop acts as a warm hub for the village. In these hot summers we also offer ourself as a cool hub. We have very effective air conditioning and a very pleasant environment. We can offer cold drinks and ice creams as well as hot drinks and cakes. Please do come in and enjoy our hospitality, relax and feel more comfortable.

And while we're on the subject of the heat we are about to invest in a new chiller. This will be more efficient than the current and much quieter! We know that some of the community groups that use the shop have found it difficult to make themselves heard. We do hope this will make a positive difference.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! We are now stocking white eggs again. These are locally sourced, free range

and good value at £1.65 for half a dozen. What's not to like?



We are trying hard to respond to customer demands for the right sort of bread at the right price. We will be trialling a new line of bread from Dangerfields Bakery of Kings Stanley. Please try it and let us know what you think.

Coffee Mornings

Our regular coffee mornings, held on the third Thursday of every month, continue to be very successful. They are a great opportunity to meet up with friends in the village. You can take advantage of complimentary refreshments and home baked cakes all served by our friendly and helpful volunteers.



27th Sept 2025
Coaley Village Hall
Doors 7pm

CRAIG  PRESENTS

Teams of 6
£15 per person
Includes Fish n Chip Supper
Raffle & Bar



BATTLE OF WITS:
[WITH FISH 'N' CHIPS]
**COALEY VS THE GOLDEN
QUIZMASTER**

BOOK YOUR PLACE VIA COALEYRECACTIONGROUP@GMAIL.COM



POPPIES



WITH THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

Annual Members Meeting – Saturday, 13th September

Annual general meetings are not everybody's idea of fun but they are an important aspect of the efficient running of your community shop. It's your opportunity to hear about the performance of the shop in the past year and about plans for the year ahead. It's also an opportunity to hold the management committee to account. The meetings rarely last longer than half an hour unless important issues are raised.

Please do come if you are able to. To vote at the Annual Members meeting you have to be a member of CoSPA. If you are not a member you are still welcome to attend and observe proceedings.

Your suggestions

If there is anything that you can't find in the shop that you think we should stock do ask one of our volunteers. Or you can use our suggestions box to request items or make any suggestions for improvements in the shop. We check the suggestions box at every meeting of the committee.

Contact Us

www.coaleycommunityshop.org
facebook: coaleycommunityshop

PRODUCE SHOW SCHEDULE

You should have noticed the Produce Show schedule is included with this newsletter. As many people don't have access to a photographic quality printer

you can now enter digital photographs on the show website at coaleyproduceshow.org.uk.

Unfortunately online entry fee payment is not available so that will still have to be done on entry day or before. Prints can still be entered on entry day.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

The Friendship Group enjoyed two visits recently. In June the group went to the Walled Garden for tea and cake and a walk round the garden and in July had a conducted tour of the garden at Cotswold Country Flowers. In August the group returns to their usual meeting place at the Village Hall. Anyone is welcome to come at 2.30pm on the first Tuesday of the month to enjoy a social afternoon followed by tea and biscuits.



20 Members and 4 visitors attended the May meeting to hear guest speaker Chris Witts talk about his life on the river Severn.

Chris bunked off to watch the boats on the river, always wanting to get involved. Every week he asked for work and was soon employed on the river tankers delivering petrol and oil from Sharpness to Swansea and Worcester. Chris had many tales to tell both happy and sad including being saved from drowning after his mother had dreamt this would happen (he couldn't swim) and the Severn bridge disaster to the stories of captains and colleagues and time in docks. He enjoyed his time on the river and was passionate about the work though later joined the Fire service. When he retired he returned to his first love on the river delivering grain between Sharpness and Tewkesbury. Chris writes books about his experiences and also has a youtube channel.

We had our cafe open during the Fete in June and what a lovely day this was . Thank you to everyone for supporting us and thanks to all those involved in organising such a great village event.

In June the good weather continued for our visit to Coaley Mill grounds where lots of conservation work has been undertaken. This was an event for members and a guest and Guy Goring greeted everyone and took us on a tour of the 3 lakes which have been put in

place over the years . The lakes are surrounded by numerous trees and Guy told us that when others may have been sitting down after Sunday dinner, his parents would be out planting trees and this happened for years and Guy has continued this with forests planted around the village. Wildlife enjoy the surroundings and apart from the obvious swans and ducks, there are otters, pine martins, snakes and many many more. With 32 of us walking around in the sunshine, the wildlife were wisely keeping out of sight.

A number of our members attended an Event at Berkeley where the WI is working in partnership with agencies all over Gloucestershire to raise awareness of all forms of violence against women and girls. Speakers from Gloucestershire's Domestic Abuse Support Service and Gloucestershire Rape and Sexual Assault Centre described the work they do and explain how WI members can provide support and raise awareness of this important issue. A range of items were donated to the Refuge at the event.

The WI cafe will be open again during the Produce show and we look forward to seeing you there. There is no meeting in August but we will be back on September 17th for a craft evening. Come and join us.

June Dunlop
Secretary
Coaley WI

coaleywi@hotmail.com



ANNABEL ALLEN
MILLINERY



FASCINATOR MAKING WORKSHOP

Coaley Village Hall @ Saturday 27th September
09:30 - 13.00



- ⌚ Create your own fascinator in a half day course
- ⌚ All tools & materials provided
- ⌚ Refreshments included
- ⌚ £40 per person

Sponsored by our friends at



POPPIES
CLEANING SERVICE



To make a booking please contact us via
email at coaleyrecactiongroup@gmail.com



COALEY NATURE MORNING

Hedgerows

Saturday 13th September

10am – 12 Midday

Coaley Rec

Proudly sponsored by:



Hedgy

wearehedgy.co.uk info@wearehedgy.co.uk

Ever fancied making sloe gin,
blackberry jam, elderflower cordial,
gooseberry jelly?

Come and find out how to identify the
key ingredients (and what not to eat!)

Learn how to manage hedges and what
to look out for that may be living in the
hedgerows around Coaley.

Refreshments available

Crafts and activities for all ages

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	860665
		07767 660206
	coaleysnowwarden@gmail.com	
Community Shop		899000
Coaley WI	June Dunlop	890302
Friendship Group	Pat Grimwood	890689
	and Isobel Farmer	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