



Coaley Parish **NEWSLETTER**

Issue no 145

December 2025 / January 2026

**Save Coaley Parish Council
Christmas Events**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	TIME	VENUE
2nd Dec	Friendship	2.30pm	Jubilee Room
4th Dec	Knitting	2.30pm	3 The Street
8th Dec	Whist	2.00pm	Hall
11th Dec	Christingle with the school	9.00am	Church
17th Dec	School Carol Concert	14.00 and 17.00	Church
21st Dec	Carols by candlelight	4.00pm	Church
24th Dec	Crib Service	4.00pm	Church
24th Dec	Christmas Communion	9.30pm	Church
25th Dec	Christmas Communion	9.30am	Church
6th Jan	Friendship	2.30pm	Jubilee Room
8th Jan	Knitting	2.30pm	8 The Close
2th Jan	Whist	2.00pm	Jubilee Room
10th Jan	Meet the Toad Patrollers	10.00am -12 noon	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 Friday 16th January 2026.

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: An abstract view of the Produce Show Christmas Tree

COALEY PARISH COUNCIL

Coaley Parish Council are looking for three councillors to join us. We have been operating with just four of our full complement of seven councillors since the start of the year. This makes our continuing operation challenging in dealing with all the business we need to, such as supporting CRAG in the redevelopment of the recreation ground. Ensuring that we have sufficient members to meet our quorum and enable meetings to be held legally is proving difficult on occasion. The situation is unsustainable and we can only continue with reduced numbers for a limited period of time before we must consider our future.

Gloucestershire county is a 'Parished' county which means that it has, at the most local level or bottom tier of local democracy, parish and town councils to support local residents. Towns and parishes have the same powers, however due to their smaller scale parishes tend not to fully exercise them. There are exceptions, such as Cam which has a hall, planning committees etc., employs staff and operates very much as a town council would.

If we are unable to attract additional councillors before our next AGM in May 2026 we will start the process of considering our merger with a neighbouring parish, probably those within the same ward Uley or Nympsfield, or possibly Cam parish councils. This will impact the voice of Coaley residents depending on which parish we potentially merge with diluting

it on Coaley village matters, but gaining a voice on another village's affairs.

A reminder of some of the things the Parish Council does, or could do with more councillors.

- Engage with local organisations and residents on issues or ideas they have to improve the village.
- Statutory consultee on all planning matters in the village.
- Develop a Neighbourhood Plan which has planning powers.
- Provide and administer three allotments in the village.
- Provides grants to local organisations.
- Ensure footpaths and related signposts are maintained.
- Inspect and report Highways issues and maintain verges if required.
- Provide litter bins and control of litter.
- Oversee the recreation ground.
- Act as trustees on the Recreation Ground Charity.
- Legal requirement to have a Biodiversity plan.
- Maintain bus shelters.

We meet 11 times a year, each month but no meeting in August, to discuss the above.

So please join us and save your parish council, for more information please contact the clerk, clerk@coaleypc.org.uk, or myself pearcys@clannet.co.uk or 07845 056210.

Martin Pearcy
Chair – Coaley Parish Council

SCHOOL REPORT

Autumn Term has been busy and exciting! Several Year 6 pupils were delighted to be invited to visit the Cotswold Home Development site in the village. It was a wonderful morning where the children learned about planning, building processes, materials and machinery. In the new year, we will be launching a design competition in partnership with Cotswold Homes as they have kindly asked for our children to design the 'child bedroom' of the show home. This is a very exciting opportunity and Cotswold Homes have very kindly agreed to gift some generous prizes for the winner and runners up.

Since establishing our Eco-Council in

September, they have been particularly active with their mission of making Coaley a more sustainable school. They organised a non-uniform day to raise funds for their mission and we reached out to Highfield Garden World to see if they could help us too. I am delighted to share that they very generously donated a huge bag of daffodil bulbs, 100 planting pots and numerous bags of compost so that every child had the opportunity to plant some bulbs to take home. We also planted several bulbs in beds around school which will make school beautifully colourful in the springtime. In addition to this, our Eco-Council visited Highfields earlier this term and purchased additional bulbs, planters, bug hotels and the highlight of their visit was the purchase of three Venus





Fly Trap plants (one for each class) which the children are most excited about!

The visits certainly didn't stop there! Our School Council Team have been exploring support in the community and visited our local foodbank in Stroud. They learned about the impact of volunteers and the donations to this incredible charity. The children were tasked with packaging different parcels in preparation for their wider distribution during their visit. The children returned to school buzzing with facts and information which they later shared with the wider community. They are using this information to pursue their mission of collecting items which the foodbank is most in need of to help our wider community.

As always, our annual 'Coaley Fireworks' was a huge success, and we raised a phenomenal £1247. I would like to share a huge thank you to our FOCS committee as well as everyone who came along to support and to those who helped tidy up after the event.

Autumn Term is always a very special time of year as we begin to celebrate the festivities of the season in the build up to Christmas and prepare for our Christingle and Carol Service. We welcome all villagers along to our services in Church to celebrate with us. We hope to see many of you there.

Miss Thomas
Headteacher

CRAG UPDATE

Coaley Community Spirit Shines Bright

CRAG has been working hard to continue to bring fresh energy to our much-loved recreation ground — and over the past few weeks, our wonderful volunteers and supporters have truly brought Coaley to life.

From nature sessions to Halloween magic to a buzzing pub quiz, our village has been filled with fun, laughter, and incredible generosity.

Nature Sessions — Learning, Laughter & Hedgehogs

Our heartfelt thanks go to the fantastic Nature Team — Abby Birkbeck, Paul and Amanda Godden, Charlotte and Sarah, who kept everyone refreshed and smiling.

The latest session focused on hedgehogs, with our visitors from the Wild Hogs Hedgehog Rescue and it was a brilliant success, full of curiosity, beautiful crafts, learning and a fun hedgehog themed obstacle course!

Coming up next

Saturday 10 January 2026 — Meet the Toad Patrollers.

If you have ever wondered why villagers in high-vis jackets appear on dark, rainy winter nights, now is your chance to find out what they do, why it matters, and how you can get involved.

A Spooktacular Trick-or-Treat Trail

Thank you to everyone who helped create such a magical and spooky evening for Coaley's children and families.

Residents transformed their homes into haunted houses, and around 300 children and families took part in the fright-filled trail through the village.

The Village Hall was turned into a Halloween wonderland, packed with games, crafts, toffee apples, and a lively disco. Hundreds of hotdogs and drinks were enjoyed by our hungry little ghouls.

Most importantly, the event raised £666 towards the new Toddler Park — a fantastic achievement.

CRAG Pub Quiz Success

Around 70 enthusiastic quizzers joined us for the latest CRAG Pub Quiz, filling the room with laughter, friendly rivalry, and some seriously impressive knowledge.

A huge thank you to our brilliant host, Suzie, whose energy and quick wit kept everyone entertained.

With rounds on general knowledge, art, literature, music, and television, it was a night to remember — and it raised £435 for the Toddler Park.

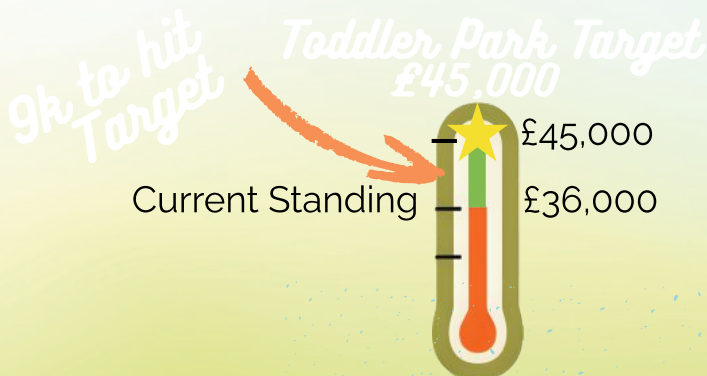
Thank you to everyone who donated prizes or helped make the event such a fun and welcoming evening.

COALEY TODDLER PARK

WE'RE NEARLY THERE!



CRAG HAS ALREADY RAISED £36,000 WE NEED JUST £9,000 MORE TO START BUILDING THE BRAND-NEW TODDLER PARK AT COALEY REC.



CAN YOU HELP US GET THERE?

- ✓ Make a donation
- ✓ Sponsor a piece of play equipment
- ✓ Donate a raffle prize or service
- ✓ Every contribution makes a difference



DONATE HERE



Our New Target



Funding Update — We're Nearly There

Thanks to your incredible support and the generosity of our local partners CRAG has now raised £36,000 of the £45,000 needed to build a safe, inclusive and welcoming new play area for Coaley's youngest residents.

Special thanks to:

- Cotswold Housing – £5,000
- June Margaret Paver Trust – £2,500
- Coaley residents – £1,000 in individual donations

We are now just £9,000 away from our target and aiming to reach it by Christmas, so we can begin building in the New Year.

If you would like to help us reach the finish line, please consider making a donation, sponsoring part of the park, or contributing a raffle prize.

Coming Soon — “Adopt a Tree”

As part of our ongoing environmental work at the recreation ground, we are excited to launch our new Adopt a Tree campaign. This will offer families and individuals a meaningful opportunity to sponsor a tree that will be planted over the winter — a gift that not only supports our environment but also provides a lovely way to celebrate a special occasion or commemorate someone important. Together, these trees will help us grow a greener Coaley for generations to come.

Full details will be shared soon on our social media pages and village noticeboards.

Thank you, Coaley.

A heartfelt thank you to every person who has given their time, energy, donations, creativity, and kindness to CRAG and our community.

Coaley is incredibly fortunate to have such dedicated people making great things happen.





Together, we are not only building a playground — we are growing a stronger, greener, and more connected village.

To get involved contact us at:
coaleyreactiongroup@gmail.com
 or visit: www.coaleyrec.co.uk

KNITTING GROUP

Over the past year the group has donated to various Charities. These include The Haven in Gloucester(helps disadvantaged families),PUMA(sends items to Ukraine),Mission to Seamen, Tiger Lily Trust(for premature and still born babies),Blankets for Orphaned Baby Rhinos.

That is 37 blankets, 15 children's hats, 29 soft toys, 18 teddies, 14 baby's cardigans, 34 adult hats, 23 children's jumpers, 6 sewn garments, 6 gowns for still born babies.

A big thank you to the wonderful knitters and crotcheters who freely give their time be effort to support these worthwhile causes, as well as putting up the poppies in November and decorations in December

You do not need to come to the Knitting Group to contribute items. They can be given to Barbara Davis.

Contact barbaradavis4119@gmail.com



SHOP

Volunteering

If you use the shop regularly you will know that we have a very dedicated team of volunteers who do everything from serving on the committee, serving behind the counter, making sure the shop is well stocked and carrying out day to day maintenance.

We work hard to ensure that we provide a friendly and effective service, so a lot of work goes on behind the scenes to make this happen. This includes regular training sessions for volunteers. At a recent meeting 25 of our regular volunteers gave up a Thursday evening to up their skills on a wide range of issues vital to the efficient running of the shop. These included health and safety, safeguarding and several detailed administrative issues that are all necessary to keep the shop running smoothly.



We always need more volunteers. It's a great way to meet new people and contribute to village life. The committee makes sure that volunteers are fully supported, and new volunteers

will always work alongside old hands until they are confident. Please do speak to one of our volunteers if you are interested in joining the team.

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 attractions, good things to eat, Christmas cards and gifts, some of them made locally.

We'll have the advent calendar again running through December on the side of the shop that was so popular last year. In addition, we'll have a gingerbread house displaying wooden baubles made by children from the school, playgroup, and afterschool club.

As usual we'll be stocking a wide range of Christmas goodies to eat and drink. On the savoury side we'll have Hobbs sage and cranberry loaf. Also from Hobbs we'll have their popular luxury mince pies and ginger and chocolate biscuits. There will be gluten free mince pies. To round off the Christmas meal there'll be chocolates and selection boxes.

Alongside our wide range of alcoholic drinks we already have mulled wine in stock and loose spices if you want to use your own recipe.

Christmas gifts will include Abby's garden sculptures and a new line of Christmas candles and cards.

On the practical side to see you



through the winter weather we have firelighters, kindling and deicer spray.

The committee of Coaley Community Shop would like to take this opportunity to wish all our loyal customers a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

Contact us

<https://www.coaleycommunityshop.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/coaleycommunityshop>

Christmas Opening hours:

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24th 9:00 – 12:00

Christmas Day Closed

Boxing Day, Friday 26th 10.00 – 12.00

New Year's Day, Thursday 10.00 – 12.00

All other days during the festive period open as normal.

PLAYGROUP

It's been a busy and exciting term at Coaley Playgroup, with the children exploring lots of engaging topics and celebrations through play and learning. We've enjoyed Recycling Week, where the children learned about caring for our planet and had fun creating new things from old materials. We celebrated Halloween with some spooky crafts and storytelling, and during Space Week, the children explored the planets, stars, and rockets through creative play.

We also took time to learn about Remembrance Day, making poppy crafts and talking about kindness and peace, and we celebrated Diwali with a lovely visit from 'phonics with Robot Reg'. Our fireworks-themed activities brought plenty of sparkle too.

Some of our favourite stories this term have included Room on the Broom, Owl Babies, and The Gruffalo — inspiring art, role play, and outdoor adventures connected to each tale.

As we head towards the end of term, we're getting ready for the festive season with Christmas crafts and plenty of practice for our Christmas performance, which we can't wait to share with parents.

Fundraising

A huge thank you to our wonderful families for their generosity — the sponsored wheelathon raised over £1,000, which will go towards repairing our outdoor shelter. We're so grateful

for everyone's support and look forward to more fun fundraising events in the new year!

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. Please let us know if you would like to be added to the waiting list.

WI

Coaley WI met in October to hear from Buzz who, along with his wife, runs Woodfernal Cottage Nursery. Buzz Busby is an archaeologist and archeological botanist identifying dates of plant life found in archeological digs as well as a plantsman. His wife has always grown plants and like many of us, often ended up with too many which resulted in a table top sales. This developed over time and the nursery has now been open for approx. 10 yrs. Woofernal nursery is located on Grove lane. (As you head to Whitminster, past Highfields on your left, take a right turn onto Grove Lane by the Forge public house. The nursery is further down on your left. Buzz brought many plants with him and members chose which plants went into the winter display. Buzz chatted as he planted answering many questions, explaining how to get the best out of our plants and which plants to choose depending on when you want the most colour in the winter. Members were able to purchase plants and sales were high. Jenni thanked Buzz for his



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

As the year comes to a close, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our village and all who've supported us. Whether you stopped in for a drink, shared a meal, joined our events, or simply offered a friendly wave, you've helped make The Old Fox a warm and welcoming place. Your loyalty and good company means the world to us, and thanks to your generosity, our charity quizzes have raised nearly £11,000 this year, including one that brought in over £1,100.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
from all of us at The Old Fox!



BIG BOXING DAY QUIZ!



Friday 26th
@ 7pm

Enjoy our Big Boxing Day Quiz whilst you feast out on your Christmas Day leftovers! You bring the food, we'll do the washing up!

LIVE MUSIC



SAT 6th
CHAPTER TWO

SAT 13th
JAY WATTS

SAT 20th
MIKE WALSH



CAROLS

with
Coaley Choir

Coaley Choir will be joining us for Christmas Carols from 8pm, why not come and join us for a festive sing along and a mulled wine?

THURSDAY
18th



NYE PARTY!

WEDS 31st DEC

Live music from Flying Finish from 8pm, followed by a disco taking us through midnight! Hot bites served from the kitchen throughout the evening!



 @oldfoxcoaley

01453 890905

entertaining talk and demonstration.

Pat Bozworth celebrated her 90th birthday this year and was given a bouquet and card signed by the members, Pat has been a member of Coaley WI for longer than she can remember . She has been active on the committee and was secretary for many years.

Our December meeting is where we meet for a Christmas meal along with Secret Santa.

The programme for 2026 will be handed out in December, copies will be published on our Facebook page and paper copies available in the shop. It's another year of fascinating talks with something for everyone and we hope you can come along and join us.

Liz praised Mary for the success of the Coaley Peak day which many attended and said how good it was. Mary thanked those others who helped with the event.

June Dunlop
Secretary
Coaley WI

coaleywi@hotmail.com

PRODUCE SHOW CALENDAR

This year's calendar (see below) should be now available, showcasing photographs taken by our neighbours in the surrounds of Coaley. Copies are available in the shop, £6 for one or 2 for £10.



JANUARY



FEBRUARY



MARCH



APRIL



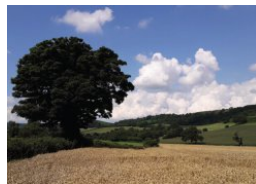
MAY



JUNE



JULY



AUGUST



SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER



NOVEMBER



DECEMBER

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

Help Longfield Hospice – Booking Open Now

Now is the chance to sign up to dispose of your Christmas Tree in the most eco-friendly way possible and raise money for Longfield Community Hospice.

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 14 November until 6th January 2025.

A FEW THOUGHTS FOR NEXT YEAR.

If you are considering planting a hedge, think of birds, insects and hedgehogs. Hedges mean food and protection. Bushes such as pyracantha, blackthorn, holly and hawthorn etc. are good for this (they will also deter burglars)! A small hole in opposite sides of your garden fence will allow freedom of movement for hedgehogs which will delight in your slugs and snails. Birds will nest in your hedge so try to avoid it being beautifully cut as this will deter them. If it is possible, don't finally cut it until all the berries have been eaten as this is fuel for the winter months (this is not always in your control). Ivy is the last plant to flower and will be covered in insects of many kinds. A small amount in the hedge is good.

Do lawns have to be just grass? Like this they are a desert. Daisies and clover will be visited by bees, especially the very, very small ones. Moss lines birds' nests. Chemicals on lawns kill worms and leather jackets (immature crane flies). Birds eat both of these, and it's wonderful watching blackbirds eat worms. The charity Songbird Survival has funded the University of Sussex to do research on pesticides used in gardens. House Sparrows decreased by 12% where any pesticide was used, 25% by glyphosate and 39% by metaldehyde. Glyphosate decreased robins and great tits; Mecoprop lowered numbers of chaffinches, blackbirds, dunnocks and great tits.

Caterpillars can be picked off by hand but are also food for fledgelings. If you have a wasps nest and it's out of the way, leave it. Wasps eat greenfly as do ladybirds and they are your friends. Also the winter will rot the nest and it will disappear. Green woodpeckers will come and eat your ants.

My pond is 1m x 50cm. I regularly get newts and frogs even though it is small. Birds drink from it. This year I even had a grasssnake.

Bird baths are good for drinking and baths. I love watching the water go everywhere.

If everyone in Coaley did just one of these things we would make a big difference to our local wildlife.

Parus Major

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