

FOX and HOUNDS

01453 890366

EASTER WEEKEND

Fri 6th - FREE hot cross buns
Sat 7th - Live Music 9pm and happy hour 9 till 10
Sun 8th - Easter Raffle at 9pm.

Easter dinners being served.

Monday 9th - Family egg hunt 1pm and
Easter quiz 8pm cash prize and free food.
Sat 21st April - Live Music from 'Good God No' at 9pm.
Sunday 29th April, 3.30pm

Fox and Hounds vs coaley cricket club @
St Peters field. All welcome food back at the pub after.

Sat 19th May - Leon Days playing live at 9pm
Weekend of Queens Jubilee - **Sat 2nd June** Live music
at 9pm, **Tuesday 5th** party in the car park, free food
and activities. All the family welcome includes bouncy
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Coaley Parish Newsletter

ISSUE NUMBER SEVENTY-TWO

APRIL 2012/MAY 2012

MUSICHALL 2012



30 years of Musichall in Coaley, and bookings as high as ever. A huge compliment to all involved in the shows over the years, and perhaps even moreso now with modern life offering even more distractions and commitments.

Two performers, Maureen Wibberley and Paul Cheshire were on stage for that first Musichall in 1982, and every one since, never imagining they would still be needed to perform 30 years later, but such has been the success of Coaley Musichall.

Many from the village have "Tread the Boards" during those 30years, far too many to mention, and many of them are still giving invaluable support, working in the Bar, Kitchen, Front of house, Painting scenery, Helping with costumes etc, to ensure we maintain a high standard, and everything runs smoothly.

We, the Church Social Committee, and the P.C.C. are grateful for their continuing dedication.

The enthusiastic group I now have on stage, ensures a show full of energy, fun nonsense and great singing, so the most difficult part for me remains the programme content, the themes, and finding new and professional-amateurs for the star spots.

This year themes abounded. Should it be The Olympics, Pearls for our 30th year, Diamonds for the Queen's Jubilee Year? Without doubt, one section had to be...MUSICHALL...then trawling through song books, I realised there were dozens and dozens of songs, popular for generations, but now mostly locked in our memories, songs about palaces kings and queens and soldiers, so in this Jubilee Year, it had to be a patriotic theme.

Yes, Musichall 2012 was a truly British Show. Scotland has its bagpipes and swirling skirts, Ireland, its Caliphs and Riverdance Wales its Eistedfods and Male Voice Choirs, and what has England? Musichall of course, born in the Gin Joints of Edwardian London, a mass of humorous and sad songs evolved

on life among the poor in Cockney London.

London, now a beautiful and Iconic City steeped in history, our wonderful Queen of 60 years, plus all the colour and pageantry of our Heritage. There was so much to sing about, and so we did, from Changing Guard at Buckingham Palace (beautifully painted for us by Giles Sims and Chris Prout) lifelike appearances, with the help of face masks, of six members of the Royal Family, through to Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory.

The Choruses were without doubt on top form, and three short sketches added much humour to the show, but our two young guests, Emily Jenner and Kieran Powell put the whole show on a different level. 17 yr old Emily delighted everyone with her flawless performance on saxophone, displaying her versatility as she mixed atmospheric love-songs, Take the A-train, through to a frenetic Hungarian Dance duet with our accompanist, Paul Phillips.

Kieran, just 16yrs old had perfected the art of ventriloquism to the very highest standard, and had the audience rocking with laughter as he talked to, and sang with a variety of animals, birds and other things to a degree of artistry which had audiences almost believing they were real. His voice, singing was incredible, and it is little wonder that he wins amateur contests across the country. We hope this will not be last appearances at Coaley for either Emily or Kieran.

Once again, we, The Church, in Coaley, are indebted to everyone for working-giving-and supporting our Anniversary Musichall.

Over £4,500.00 was raised for Church Funds. **Photos pg 6&7**

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USEFUL 'PHONE NUMBERS & INFORMATION

Parish Councillors: Peter Ashman890661
 John Burgess07917 785525
 Ian Eve890839
 Stephen Cook860504
 Lyulph Lumley890491
 Lynn Thornton545880
 Sue Colquhoun07810 630145
 Vicar: Rev Ian Robb542679
 Village Hall: Lesley Chalmers890788
 Needing a lift to Coaley Church?
 Co-ordinator Isobel Farmer890556
 Tree Warden: Sue Childs860334
 ST Emergency Water & Sewage Centre (24hr)0800 783 4444
 Gas Emergency Leaks etc [24 hour]0800 111 999
 Electricity Loss of Supply [24 hour]08000 328 1111
 Street Lights – lightout@gloscc.gov.uk08000 514 514
 Village Link01452 423598
 County Travel Line 24-hours01452 425543
 Crimestoppers0800 555 111
 Neighbourhood Watch Ken Wibberley890449
 Community Shop01453 899000
 Lost Property Joy John890743
 Snow Wardens Sarah Mather861032
 Mike Robinson860389
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<http://piano-time.blogspot.com/>
 Catherine Jones MA
 (Cantab) PGCE EYPS



Parish Council meetings are normally on the first Tuesday of each
 month at 7.30p.m. and all residents are invited to attend.

*Please let us have contributions
 for the next issue by
 Friday 18th May 2012*

To Lynn Thornton
 Mill House, Stancombe, Dursley, GL11 6AY
 Telephone 01453 545880
 Email newsletter@coaleypc.org.uk

www.coaleypc.org.uk

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**Would you appreciate
 some gardening assistance?**

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Coaley Cricket Club AGM

The steady increase in daylight hours heralds the need to dust off the cricket equipment and the Coaley Cricket Club AGM. Most of the club stalwarts assembled at the Fox & Hounds to eagerly await the inspiring words from Captain Brian Chivers that would drive us on to the end of the season. Although the delivery was not exactly Henry V, the minutes were agreed as mostly accurate if a little sparse. To sum up, 2011 was a pretty good year, winning the majority of games and competing well for the ones we let slip away. General thanks went out to members that had contributed, in one form or another, during the year. The only matter arising was the improvement to the Coaley Cricket Club website, Nick Miles offered to have a look at updating and improving the website, I think that's how Mark Zuckerberg started out.

Adrian Mather ran through the financial reports and the accounts look far better than some of the recent reports from large banking groups, even more impressive given the level of bonus Adrian gets. Subscriptions are going to stay the same this year but more focus is required on collecting the subs after the match – and before the customary trip to the pub. The issuing of membership cards is to be considered this year, a most exclusive addition so “don't leave home without it”. To boost the club funds this year a 'Frog Race' evening will be held on Saturday September 22nd. It was agreed that part of the proceeds will go

towards the restoration of the village hall so all you frog jockeys get your 'open-toad' sandals and join us for some fun; after all it is a 'Leap Year'.

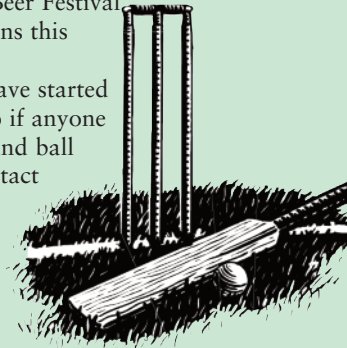
The Fixtures Secretary, Peter Hatton, has been ultra-efficient this year by confirming all fixtures between now and September. A welcome addition this year is a game on the pitch at Frampton-on-Severn outside The Ship Inn where even Vegas should be able to get the ball to the boundary. An additional game against the Fox & Hounds has been arranged following the success of the single encounter last year. Bring it on Wiff!

The election of officers went through unchanged from last year, everyone obviously doing a good job! The one job that everyone is after, the Frocester Beer Festival car park rota, went to Mike Binns this year – good luck Mike.

Practice sessions in the nets have started and will run until April 10th, so if anyone is interested in picking up bat and ball and giving cricket a go then contact me on 01453 890104.

All are welcome.

Keri James



Food Bank

A food bank has been set up in Dursley to help those in need, by supplying everyday food and household items. 85 families in the district have been helped so far.

The project is being co-ordinated by the local churches. Should you wish to help you will find a box for local collections in the back pews of St. Barts here in Coaley, any contributions would be appreciated. On the notice board alongside you will see a list of items particularly needed at the moment.

Thank you for your help.



Repair Work to Electricity Pole at Far Green

Last Autumn we reported that birds were being electrocuted at a site in Far Green and this was also causing minor blips to supply. Western Power are hoping to have an electricity outage on 19th April in order to rectify this. There may be some interruption to power supply.



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What's On

COALEY CHURCH EASTER MONDAY CREAM TEAS

The First of our CHURCH CREAM TEAS will be held on Easter Monday in the Village Hall.

EASTER MONDAY, April 9th

2.00 - 5.00pm

in COALEY VILLAGE HALL

All our usual favourites including of course a selection of delicious scones, plus a variety of Home-Made Cakes and Gateaux.

Also a Cake Stall, Spring Raffle, Good Bric-a-Brac, including 3 pairs, different sizes, of top

quality, as new ROLLER BLADES.

And our good friend Geranium George, with a large selection of his wonderful Geraniums.

Our second Cream Teas of this year will be held on **MAY-DAY, MONDAY MAY 7th,** again from 2.00pm -5.00pm details as above.

EASTER BONNETS and MAY DAY GARLANDS and

Flowers to lift our spirits will be welcomed!

Geranium George will be donating all profit from the sale of his plants to **HOPE FOR THE FUTURE**, a mobile

Chemotherapy Unit enabling people needing that treatment to receive it locally, instead of having to travel to Cheltenham or Bristol.

All other profit raised will be for

St Bartholomews Coaley General Church Funds.

For any further details please ring Maureen 890449 or Pat 890346.



Wines for a Summer Evening

in aid of St George's Church, Tower & Fabric Fund Appeal to raise funds to re-point the tower

On Friday 15th June at 8pm in St George's Church, Upper Cam I will be hosting a Wine Tasting Evening for a maximum of 40 people. An expert description of each of the 6 wines available for tasting will be provided by my brother Martin, who is a Master of Wine. There will also be a raffle, an informal wine-based quiz and cheese and biscuits will be available to assist with alcohol absorption.



Tickets are available at £10 per head by calling 01453 543551 or by emailing me with your contact details at isobelgamman@btinternet.com I look forward to meeting you and hope you can join us, Isobel Gamman

COALEY PANTOMIME

Coaley Pantomime was revised in 1999 and since then has gone from strength to strength as the cast and backstage crew have gained experience. In 2011 Peter Nolan was asked to come and give an independent review of "Cinderella". He wrote: "Pantomimes are meant to be great fun and this production of Cinderella fulfilled that duty. This show is what community spirit is all about."



The costumes were colourful, worn well and suited the story perfectly. The scenery was excellent, including one of the best fake trees I have ever seen. All the backstage crew should take a bow for the excellent cues, lighting and scenery changes.

The chorus, although most were very young, entered and exited quickly and cleanly keeping up the pace of the show. The musical direction by Paul Philips was good and kept to a minimum due to the lack of substantial singers but this was more than compensated for by the humour and enthusiasm of the cast. The principals, including the excellent horse should be proud of their contributions to the show.

No Cinderella Pantomime would be complete without the traditional outrageous behaviour of the Ugly sisters and this was no different. Keri James and John Sirett engaged the audience right from the moment they came on and continued throughout the show. There were no prompts when I saw the show, which shows how much work everyone put into the production.

Every production relies on the support of so many members who paint, sew, sell tickets and cater for those who come out to support a community Pantomime."

So now there is a chance for YOU to join in the fun and help raise funds for the Village Hall.

"Cinderella" in 2011 was so successful that the Pantomime Committee was able to donate £2,500 to the Village Hall Project and they would like to do the same in 2012.

The Pantomime Group is looking for new members to help - this includes cast on stage and backstage to help with scenery and lighting and front of house to help with catering. Also someone to video the show with the aim of producing DVDs to sell later is needed.

Coaley Panto this year will be on Nov 29th, Nov30th and Dec 1st, with rehearsals on Monday and Friday evenings and Sunday mornings

If you are interested in taking part in 2012 then come to the meeting on Monday June 18th at 7.30 pm in the Jubilee Room or ring Barbara Davis on 01453 890679.

What's On

Stroud Conservative Association

Uley & Coaley Branch invite you to an **Irresistible Country Fair!**

at Lampern House, Uley
by kind permission of
Colin and Carlyn Chisholm
on
Saturday 19th May 2012
11.00 – 2.30
Entrance £1
Kids under 14 free
Why irresistible?
Come and see for yourself
There's so much to do
Bouncy castle for all ages – hog roast – beer
tent – teas – all the stalls

Coaley Playgroup's old clothes collection

This will be on the morning of
Thursday 19 April from 9am
We would be grateful to receive any unwanted clothes,
textiles, shoes, soft toys (Please not duvets, cushions or
pillows). We will be collecting from all houses in Coaley as
well as the Box Road Avenue area and Upthorpe
(all addresses we intend to cover will be leafleted a week in
advance). Many thanks from all at Coaley Playgroup.
Any queries please contact Steph on 890443.

Time to learn Piano

Time to learn Piano is having another student concert/tea on
Sunday 20th May at 3pm in the village hall. We'll be raising
money again for Marie Curie Cancer Care, and students, both
adults and young people, will be playing solos and duets,
including some of their own compositions. There will also be a
short inaugural performance from the Storeys Way Piano Duo
(which will be giving a recital later in the year in aid of the
village hall rebuilding fund and hospice.)
Anyone who is interested in music, would like to learn the
piano, whatever your age, or would like an enjoyable
afternoon out, is welcome!
Entrance is £1 and there will be a charity collection.
Please let Catherine Jones know beforehand, for catering
purposes, if you plan on attending.
(catherine@timetolearnpiano.co.uk or 01453
861528.) We look forward to seeing you there!

Dursley Festival

SATURDAY 14TH JULY

Dursley festival takes place on Saturday 14th July this year,
building on the success of previous years this year there will
be a week long series of events with other organisations in
the community:

St James Church arts week, also support from Kingshill
House, Dursley Heritage Walk with Andy Barton, sports
tasters on the Rec with all sorts of local sports clubs - from
bowls to rugby, and more.

The week will be starting off with the City of Bristol Pipers
marching through Dursley on 7th July, events during the
week, then on 14th July there will be the Farmers Market in
the town with stalls and entertainment in the morning
followed by Ilu Axe samba band leading the procession up to
the Rec for an afternoon of fun for all the family.

We are really keen to get local organisations involved and
help them raise funds for their cause, if you would like a stall
at the festival or would like to join in the procession please
visit www.dursleyfestival.co.uk

COALEY PARISH NEWS

Dog Fouling Continues to be a Problem!

New Dog Waste Bins on
order to help with the
problem. The council
have received more
complaints about dog
waste in inappropriate
areas. 2 new dog waste
bins are on order and will
be sited one at Hamshill
and the other at Far
Green. Dog waste on our
pavements and on the
playing fields is a
continuing problem. There are already 2 dog waste bins in the
centre of the village, one by the side of the playing field and one
in the Village Hall car park. We encourage all dog owners to be
responsible and collect their dog's waste disposing of it either in
their refuse bags at home or in the appropriate dog waste bins. It
is essential that we keep our playing field clean so it is a safe
environment for children to play, the public to walk and sports
events to take place.



Dog fouling is antisocial and is a health hazard. Many councils
are having increasing problems with dog fouling and recent
discussions on the issue have taken place at Stroud District
Council. The use of 'The Clean Neighbourhoods and
Environment Act 2005' extends the provision of the adoption and
enforcement of dog control orders to Town and Parish Councils.
In these cases, the Town or Parish Council have the power to
authorise members of their staff to serve fixed penalties for any
witnessed offences in relation to littering, dog control orders and
fly posting. We hope to avoid having to use such measures and
urge all dog owners to responsibly clear up their dog mess.

All dogs and cats should be regularly wormed to prevent them
carrying the toxocara worm. Toxocariasis can cause eye disorders
and potential blindness and can be a serious health hazard
especially to children. It can also cause flu like symptoms.
Toxocara eggs are not infectious until they embryonate. This is
usually at least 2 – 3 weeks after they have been deposited by a
dog. Therefore freshly deposited faeces are not infectious, and you
can safely clear up after your dog. A single dog mess can contain
approximately 1million microscopic eggs.

Thank you to all of you who do clear up after your pet. Please
help to keep Coaley clean and pleasant.

Village Agent

I would like to draw your attention to some information which I
found enlightening and may be of help to you.

Should you be so unfortunate as to find your sight is
deteriorating do get an eye test as soon as possible. If it is
impossible to get to an optician it is likely you can arrange a
home visit. Telephone your optician, and if they are unable to
help please telephone me. Around 250,000 people in the UK are
diagnosed with Macular Degeneration. If you are so unfortunate
it is vital to catch the condition early as "wet" degeneration can
be treated, which may prevent further deterioration and possibly
even repair some of the damage to the eyes.

Some people with the onset on Macular Degeneration may
suffer from hallucinations but are well in themselves, lucid and
not confused. It could be that they have Charles Bonnet
Syndrome. Village Agents had been given a talk by
Gloucestershire County Association for the Blind and were told
about this syndrome. The Casualty Eye Clinic verified that, other
than giving reassurance and making sure the light conditions are
at their best, there is nothing to be done. However the likelihood
is that the hallucinations will stop within 18 months. Every case
is different and though the whole experience may be alarming at
least knowing that

nearly everyone will
get better is helpful.
This is not a mental
illness.

It is very important
to get a diagnosis by
your doctor if you
are experiencing
anything of this
nature as there are often logical explanations such as having an
infection or a lack of fluids.

Please telephone me if you like to discuss this article, but in any
case it is advisable to get your eyes tested regularly. You may not
have to pay, your optician will be able to let you know what to
expect.



Useful telephone numbers.

Macular Disease Society Helpline 0845 241 2041
Stroud and District MDS group, contact Sandra Best
01453 833614

Gloucestershire County Association for the Blind (GCAB)
01242 221170

Casualty Eye Clinic 08454 223 578 RNIB 0303 123 9999

Dates for your diary

DATE	EVENT	VENUE	TIME	CONTACT
3rd April	Parish Council Meeting	Jubilee Room	7.30pm	Lynn Thornton 545880
9th April	Cream Teas	Village Hall	2.00 – 5.00 pm	Maureen Wibberley 890449
19th April	Coaley Playgroup's old clothes collection	Throughout the village	From 9.00am	Steph 890443
1st May	Parish Council Meeting	Jubilee Room	7.30pm	Lynn Thornton 545880
7th May	Cream Teas	Village Hall	2.00 – 5.00pm	Maureen Wibberley
16th May	WI, Cookery demonstration by Frances Randall	Village Hall	7.30pm.	Daphne Pearce 890224.
20th May	Time to Learn Piano	Village Hall	3.00pm	Catherine Jones 861528
26th May	Village Litter Pick	Village Hall Car Park	10am	Lynn 545880
29th May	Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting	Village Hall	7.30pm	Lynn Thornton 545880

The Mobile Library will be visiting on 12th and 26th April, also 10th and 24th May. Dates for June have been confirmed as 7th and 21st.

As you will all be aware, there was a murder in Thornbury, the victim, the local vicar. This crime is being linked with the murder of a teacher in Worcestershire.

You may wonder why I mention these two dreadful incidents. Simply to urge you never to allow strangers into your premises, despite what reasons may be given. It is natural to want to help persons in need, but those with criminal intent are very plausible and insistent.

The suspect for these crimes was arrested following information provided by a member of the public, so please, do inform the police, or myself, should anything suspicious occur.

There have recently, been several thefts of tools stolen from vehicles in the Berkeley area. Security of your vehicle is essential, and if tools and any other valuables can be concealed, so much the better.

I am concerned, and more, of joggers and cyclists and with ipods, carrying out their recreational activities, unable to hear traffic behind them. Please consider the dangers as accidents resulting from these practises are on the increase.

Please continue to be observant, and report anything you consider suspicious by contacting me, or ringing the Police TEL.NO.101.

Thanking you for your assistance.
Ken Wibberley





NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

**IT ALWAYS HAPPENS TO OTHER PEOPLE!!
OR DOES IT ??**

No, it can happen to anyone. I sadly report an incident that happened to a very close member of our family when a day spent at Cheltenham Races with friends turned into a horror experience.

After a pleasant and successful day, this relative stopped at previously unknown premises to enjoy a quiet drink whilst waiting for his friends. The next thing he knew was waking up lying at the back of the premises on a stone floor at 4.00am the following morning, head throbbing, with two burly bouncers pushing him into a Taxi. All cash he had on him had gone, and he thought he had nodded off for half an hour only. With no money to pay for the Taxi, he asked the driver to take him to a Cashpoint where he would withdraw some cash. The Bank declined his request.... Insufficient funds!!!

The following morning he contacted his Bank, only to be told that over £48,000 had been withdrawn during the previous night from various Cash Machines in TEWKESBURY!!!

He immediately contacted the Police. The premises were closed down, but all personnel had vanished. Fortunately events of the previous evening had been captured on C.C.T.V. as Fraud Squad Police had suspected illegal activities, and were just waiting for proof.

His drink had been spiked, rendering him virtually unconscious for over 7 hours during which his Bank Card had been taken from his wallet, his Account cleared, and then returned to his wallet.

His mobile phone had also been switched off to avoid him being awoken early.

It could indeed have been far worse had he awoken and shown any resistance. He could have been seriously injured or worse.

So please take extra caution when using Cash Machines. These gangs we are told have sophisticated technology capable of obtaining P.I.N. No's and card No's not only at Cash Points, but also from sophisticated mobile phones.

BE CAREFUL..... BE WARNED..... It doesn't ONLY happen to other people.

Despite previous warnings, there has been a further increase in Distraction Burglaries.

Be very cautious when dealing with callers at your home.

Do not allow entry - Check Identity - Call the Company they represent if necessary.

Recent increases in the cost of fuel will inevitably lead to numerous other price increases and subsequently, an increase in Crime generally, and especially thefts from oil tanks and property from cars.

Please continue to report abandoned or suspicious vehicles.

Thank-You for your continued support, and remember,
PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE!

Ken Wibberley, Neighbourhood Watch Co-Ordinator.

Village Agent News

We have been wondering if there are restrictions on when one can drive after a having a general anaesthetic. We understand there is considerable pressure these days for day case surgery and so anaesthetics are often arranged for rapid recovery so that a patient may be discharged just a few hours later. However, effects will last and the patient must be discharged into the care of another who will drive them home.

A taxi can be used (but not a bus) and only if there is someone at home to receive the patient. Under no circumstances should a person drive on the same day as having received a general anaesthetic. Gloucester Royal Hospital has confirmed the driving should be avoided until 24 hours after the anaesthetic and even important decisions such as signing legal documents should be avoided for this time as judgement is impaired.

Patients should also check with their insurers who may have additional requirements, which might leave the driver uninsured if an accident should occur. Patients should take the advice if any is given. Failure to follow the advice would probably invalidate the insurance. Any disability notifiable at law should be reported to insurers. If the patient follows doctors advice, feel safe to drive and then drives in a reasonable way they would be covered by their insurance.

We have gleaned this information from the Patient.co.uk website and Guide and PALS.

Should you have any questions about this article or anything else do telephone me on 07810 630 145.

Sue Colquhoun

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting of the Council will take place on Tuesday 29th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Tea and coffee will be served and there will be a presentation by Martin Hutchings from GRCC regarding affordable housing in the village.

Pre Jubilee Village Litter Pick

A litter pick will take place on Saturday 26th May at 10am, please meet in the village hall car park. This is an opportunity to tidy the village up, if there is enough support it will not take very long. Bags and litter picks will be provided.

Golden Jubilee Award

It is that time of the year again! The council would like nominations for the Golden Jubilee Award, this is presented to the person who has made a large contribution to the village in 2011. So if you know someone who works tirelessly for the good of the village then please complete a nomination slip and place in the box in the village shop. The winner will be announced at the Annual Parish meeting on Tuesday 29th May at 7.30pm.

Affordable Housing

Hopefully you received an affordable housing questionnaire and accompanying letter with your newsletter. The Parish Council is very conscious that there is a lack of housing in the village for young families and couples. The questionnaire is an opportunity for you to agree or not as you feel appropriate. Please take the time to give this matter some thought and return the questionnaire in the prepaid envelope, all comments will be taken into consideration. Martin Hutching from GRCC will be presenting the results at the Annual Parish meeting on Tuesday 29th May at 7.30pm in the Village hall.

Bonfires

Whilst the good weather is with us it is an ideal opportunity to get out in the garden, please when lighting a bonfire consider your neighbours. If you are experiencing continuous problems with a neighbour then the guidelines from Stroud District Council is to keep a note of the dates and times of the bonfires and contact the Environmental Protection Team, Stroud District Council, Ebley Mill, Stroud, Glos, GL5 4UB, Tel: 01453 754478 or email your enquiry to environmental.health@stroud.gov.uk. They will follow up your complaint confidentially, although they may need you to give evidence if they prosecute. The initial approach will usually be an informal letter, giving advice about better ways of disposing of the rubbish and explaining about the problems from bonfires. If this is not successful, and the bonfires continue, the investigating officer will decide if the fires are causing a statutory nuisance, if so they will take further action under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.



We, Peter and Sue Jones live in Knapp Lane, Coaley and after spending many years running in our own business in Dursley we retired in 2010. We have always enjoyed walking and the countryside, and Peter is a keen photographer, so as a retirement present our son Tom (who runs a popular London blog called www.tiredoflondontiredoflife.com and has just released a book) gave us a website called www.Cotswoldyear.com and challenged us to write about what we saw around Coaley and the Cotswolds.

That was two years ago, and since then we have been charting the seasons in our local area and writing our blog as often as we can. We base the website on the South Cotswolds and obviously Coaley features regularly! We don't go into too much detail, a photo and a few words about what we have seen. It is like writing a diary and great to look back on and see what happened last year and so on.

We are now having over 1800 page views per month, some of which come from far flung parts of the world where readers are obviously taking an interest in Coaley's Flora and Fauna, so we hope that in some small way we are doing our bit for the local tourism industry. We also hope to interest those we have moved away from the area so if readers have friends or relatives out there who would be interested they might like to let them know.



Did you know?

About April

Gemstone: Diamond
Flower: Sweet Pea



No one knows for certain how April got its name, but it may have come from the Latin word 'aperire' which means 'to open'. April is the month when in the northern hemisphere buds begin to open and things start to grow again after the winter.

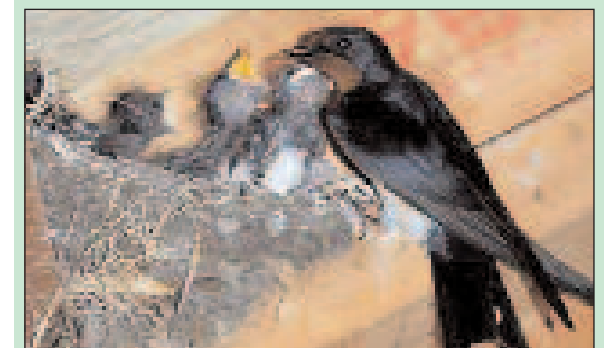
April Fools Day

April begins with a day of fun and jokes – April Fools Day. The origins of the custom are unknown, but it has been kept 'alive' for hundreds of years.

*The First of April, some do say
Is set apart for All Fools Day;
But why the people call it so,
Not I, nor they themselves do know.*

The arrival of the cuckoo is the signal that spring has come – it arrives sometime in mid-April and is said to sing from St. Tiburtius' Day (14th April) to St. John's Day (24th June).

The cuckoo is arguably the UK's best known summer visitor. Spending the winter months in Africa, cuckoos arrive back in the UK during late April or early May, timing the arrival to match the breeding season of its 'hosts' species here. The main hosts in the UK are the Dunnock, Meadow Pipit, Pied Wagtail and the Reed Warbler. As one of the most infamous brood parasites, cuckoos lay their eggs in the nests of other birds with precision timing. Once hatched, the chick ejects the legitimate occupants and then gets fed by its new and unsuspecting foster parents – true masters of deception.



Summer Visitors

House Martins: These lovely migrant birds fly from Africa to nest in the British Isles, many in our area. They spend a long time making their mud nests under the eaves of houses. Please be tolerant of their building habits. The birds do not cause too much mess and they become distressed if all their hard work is destroyed. If house martins cannot raise their brood, yet another species will be endangered.

Swallows: Always return to their old nest sites, so please make access to them. If for security, access has to be shut, swallows will fly through small opening in order to reach their traditional nesting sites.

Swifts: their nesting sites, some of which are centuries old, are fast disappearing. They require an access tunnel of at least 18" long with a small entrance hole. Swifts are believed to spend as much as 9 months a year on the wing and are known to nap whilst flying. Should you require any advice about these birds or how to obtain artificial nesting boxes and how to erect them, please contact Glos Wildlife Trust 01452 383333.

NB: It is a criminal offence to interfere with a nest or an animals habitat.

