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Introduction

The idea of this appraisal arose following a presentation by the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council, at a Parish Council meeting. The Gloucestershire Rural Community Council is a voluntary organisation that seeks to promote the welfare of rural communities in the county, by encouraging community self-help, local initiatives and voluntary effort. Whilst there was no issue of immediate concern prompting the need for a village appraisal, it was felt by several parishioners, and the Parish Council, that it would provide an opportunity for the individual residents to express their views on a variety of topics of general interest. These views could then aid the relevant authorities, such as the Parish and District Councils, with information to justify any changes or improvements that were sought. It was also felt that the survey would encourage informed and constructive discussion to take place, ensuring that the interests of the whole village and parish were taken into account. At the same time, it was felt that the appraisal would provide a snapshot of village life in Coaley as it is today and should also include, particularly for the benefit of relative newcomers to the village, some of its history.

Having established a Steering Committee, a questionnaire was produced with the help of a computer package designed by the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council. This questionnaire was distributed to all villagers over the age of 11, with a supplementary questionnaire for primary school children.

The responses were analysed by members of the committee and the results collated in late 1991/early 1992.

The Committee wish to thank all those who have contributed to the survey, particularly the 60% of villagers who completed the lengthy questionnaire and provided the information upon which this appraisal is based, thus allowing a true reflection of local opinion to be expressed.

The appraisal committee consisted of:

*Alan Gore (chairman)
Janet Coleman
Joanna Jackson*

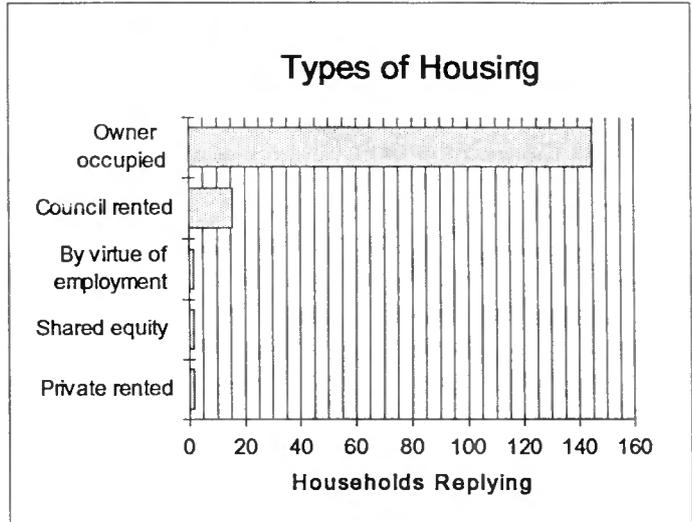
*Bill Bazett
Wendy Hawkins
Mary Penny*

*Avril Burak
John Hobson
Colin Prout*



Household

The population distribution of households answering the questionnaire was fairly evenly balanced between male and female with two hundred and twenty-nine men as against two hundred and forty women. Of those old enough to complete the full questionnaire there were one hundred and ninety-six men as against two hundred and fourteen women, a total of four hundred and ten people. Of these, three hundred and eighty-one completed the personal section. Those replying lived predominantly in owner occupied property.



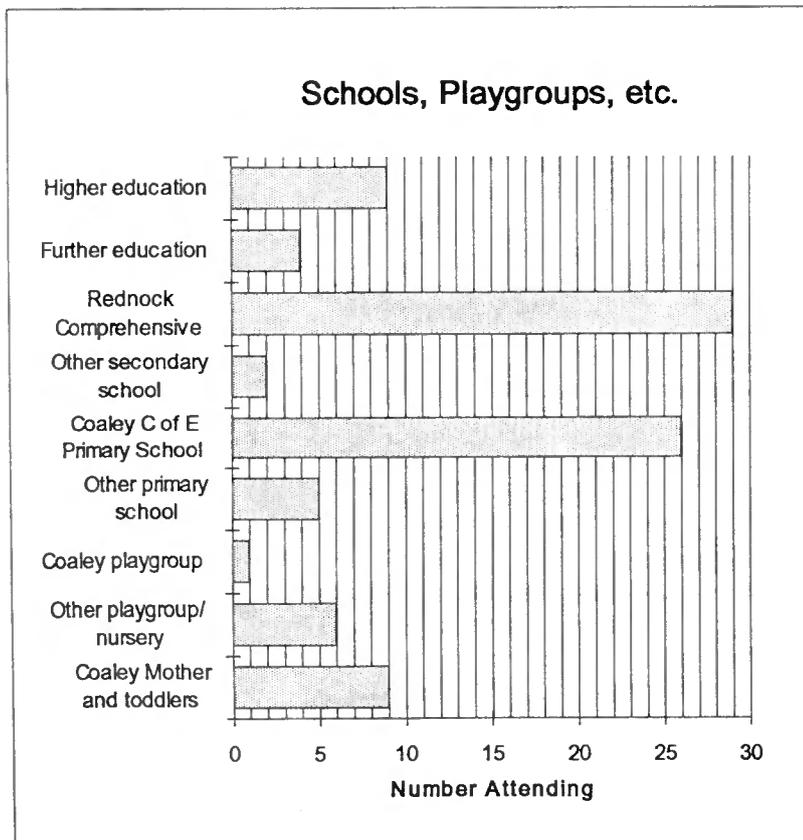
Population over the Years

1551	200 communicants 53 households	From Church Records
1603	234 communicants 70 families	
1676	260 communicants 7 non-conformists	
1712	120 households 500 inhabitants	
1779	598 inhabitants	
1801	850 inhabitants	
1992	766 inhabitants	

The majority of pre-school age children will eventually attend Coaley Primary School. Of those not being sent to Coaley, two will go to St. Joseph's, Nympsfield, and one to Cam Everlands.

Quite a large proportion of the children attend activities arranged by the school, out of school hours. The small number who did not, cited lack of public transport and the distance between home and school as being the prime reasons. The various groups and schools attended by the children are shown graphically.

Fifty-eight per cent of households think that the village needs a nursery.



A number of ideas were put forward as to ways in which the village school could make a greater contribution to the village community. A great number of people also pointed out the many ways in which the school already contributes to village life. Of those ideas put forward, many suggested greater liaison with the elderly and the use of the school buildings and equipment for adult education and special interest groups. Some also expressed concern at the possible imposition of extra work on already busy school staff, whilst others bemoaned the lack of involvement by the community in the school functions.

People



The population is fairly stable and spread over all age groups. However, many young adults have to move away to seek work or suitable housing. The scarcity of affordable housing affects Coaley as much as it does many other rural communities.

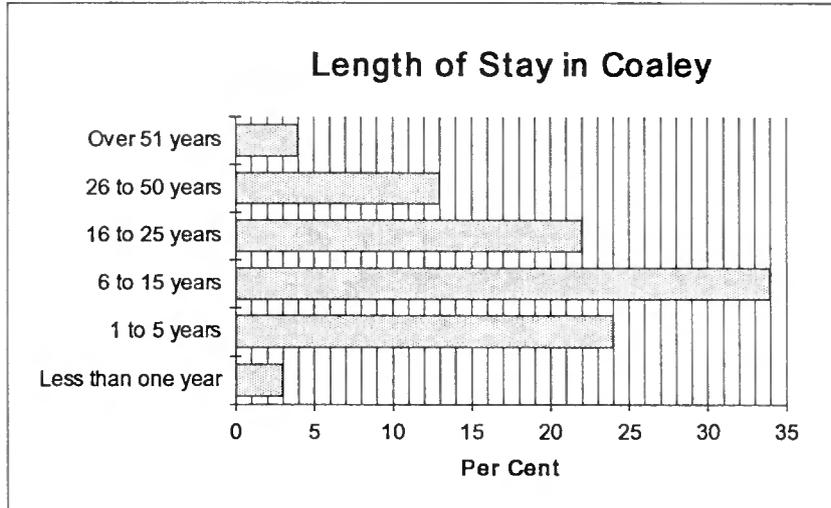
A few people have lived here less than a year, and a similar number have dwelt in the village for more than half a century - most or all of their lives.

The majority of newcomers are families, able to buy their own homes. They are people of

working age. A small number arrive either to retire, or with retirement in mind. Some, by great good luck, are born here.



There was a considerable influx during the period 1975 to 1985. This may be due, in part, to the completion of building in The Close. However, the appraisal does not record who left the village, and possibly there was merely a movement of population into the district.



A View of Coaley from Pinnell's End Lane



Housing

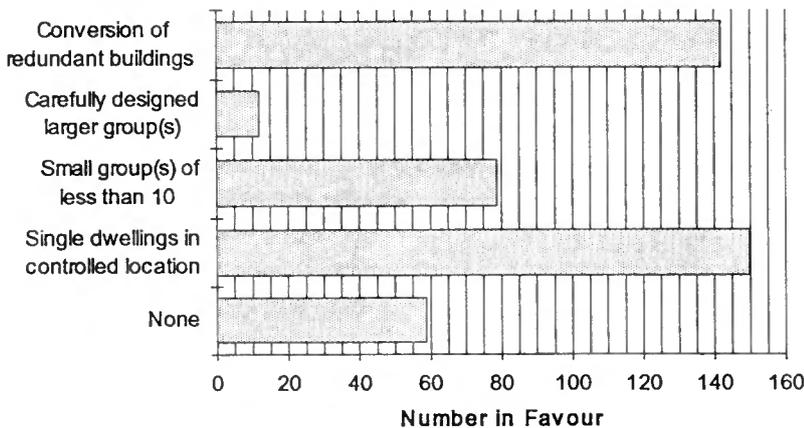


Coaley is a long Parish straggling from the Cotswold Edge at Coaley Peak to the A38 near Cambridge - a distance of about three miles. Apart from the outlying farms, dwellings are strung along the roads in distinct groups such as Westend, Hamshill, Far Green and Silver Street. The biggest grouping is the village centre comprising The Street, Betworthy and The Close.



The Street
Stone, Brick
and Rendered

Acceptable Development



deterioration. More recently, reconstituted and artificial stone has been in favour. Old barns have been converted into dwellings; one solution to the problem of preserving redundant farm buildings. Nearly all the older and smaller cottages have been extended - some extremely well and some to such an extent that the original character has been lost.

The older houses, some dating back to the 17th Century are built of Cotswold oolitic limestone. Some of these have disappeared over the years. There was much building and rebuilding during Victorian times, when local brick was readily available. Since the 1939-45 war there has been a period of further building in brick, rendered block and some council houses of reinforced concrete cladding, which has proved liable to

Coaley is not a museum or a time capsule, but a popular country village that has developed over the centuries and this is reflected in the sheer variety of its buildings.

Some 4% of those who replied would like to move, three-quarters of them either within the village or nearby, but cannot do so because of the lack of rented accommodation or the cost of buying a house. One respondent is on the District Council housing waiting list.



Brick Houses
Westend

Most of those who replied are strongly against any large scale development in the village, and as many as one in five are opposed to any further building at all. The majority would accept single dwellings in controlled locations or the conversion of redundant buildings and some would not object to small groups of less than ten houses.



Local Countryside and the Environment

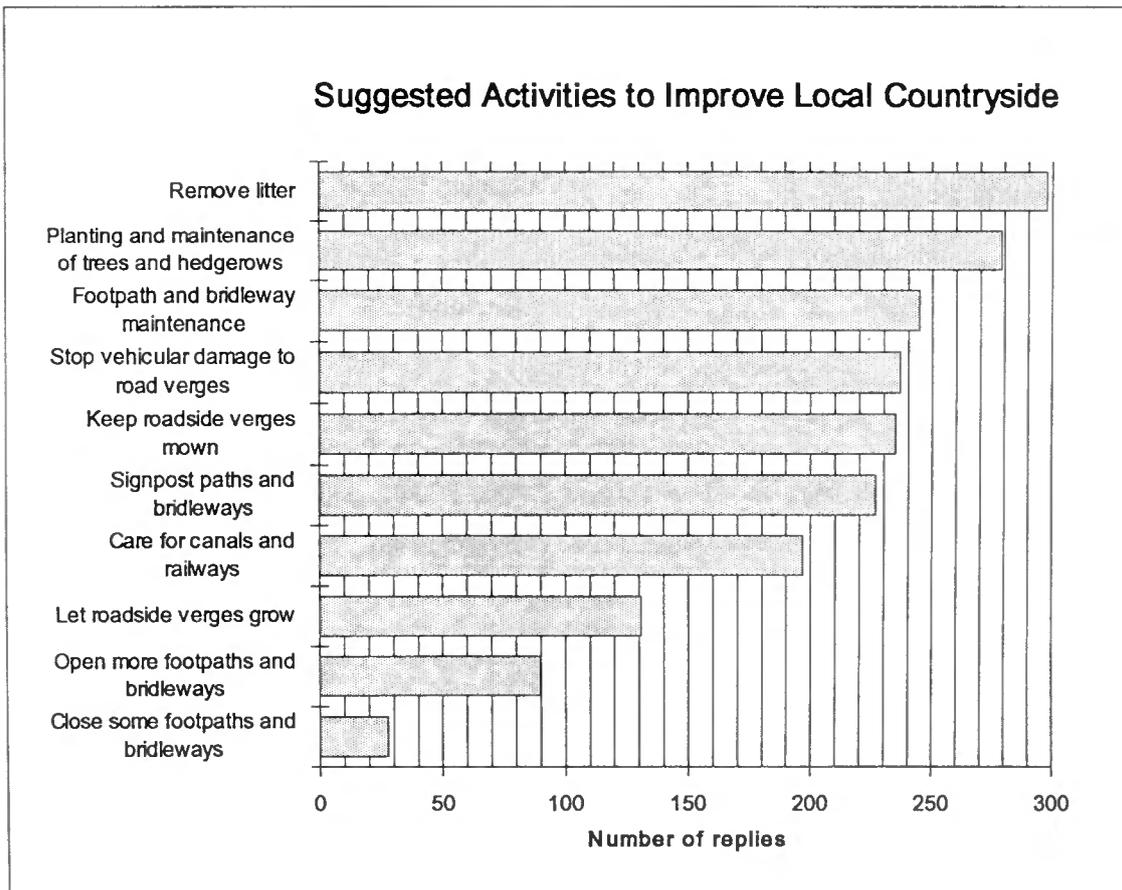


Replies in this section show that the villagers are very interested in the Coaley environment and express concern about a variety of issues.

The control of litter emerged as a major concern, with two hundred and ninety-eight people registering it as an important activity to improve the local countryside. The most popular solution to the problem was to teach the children at school (290 people, 82%). However, an interesting point that emerged from the children's questionnaire was that they saw the problem as being caused by the adults, so perhaps we all need educating. One hundred and thirty-six people (39%), consider the incentive of joining a 'Best Kept Village' competition as a worthwhile option. However, the employing of a litter warden or putting up notices wasn't seen as a viable solution. The siting of more litter bins with regular

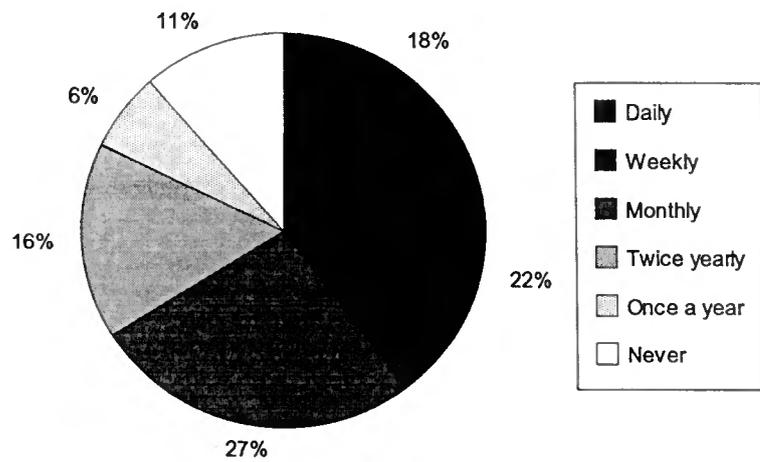


emptying and concern over rubbish tipping at the top of Peak Lane and Frocester Hill were views that also emerged. A significant number of villagers are concerned about the state and maintenance of the roadside verges. The damage caused by parked cars at West End Corner and by the volume of traffic down Peak Lane are two instances. More people consider it very important to keep the verges mown rather than to let them grow for wildlife. This is mainly for safe visibility along narrow country lanes and for 'neatness' in residential areas. However, the need for compromise in order to achieve a good balance between safety and wildlife was realised by a number of people. Practices suggested include mowing only when the wildflowers have set seed and allowing the back of verges to grow to provide a more varied habitat.



The planting and maintenance of trees was considered very important and worth doing by two hundred and seventy-nine people, with the idea of a tree planting scheme and a 'tree warden'. A caring programme of hedge trimming and laying was sought as the hedgerows were also considered to be a valuable and important feature of the village. Concern was raised about the need to clear up the hedge debris after cutting and to warn motorists when cutting was being done, to allow them to take safety precautions.

Use of Village Footpaths and Bridleways



A general concern for the environment on the whole was brought out by the questionnaire. In particular, a number of people were aware of pollution problems and the need to promote individual responsibility. This could be attained, for example, by only making necessary car journeys, using lead free petrol, fitting catalytic converters and recycling household rubbish.



Responsible use of pesticides and herbicides, by all landusers, was seen as an important element in safeguarding the countryside. There was a wish to be notified when spraying was to be undertaken, so that contact with the sprays could be avoided.

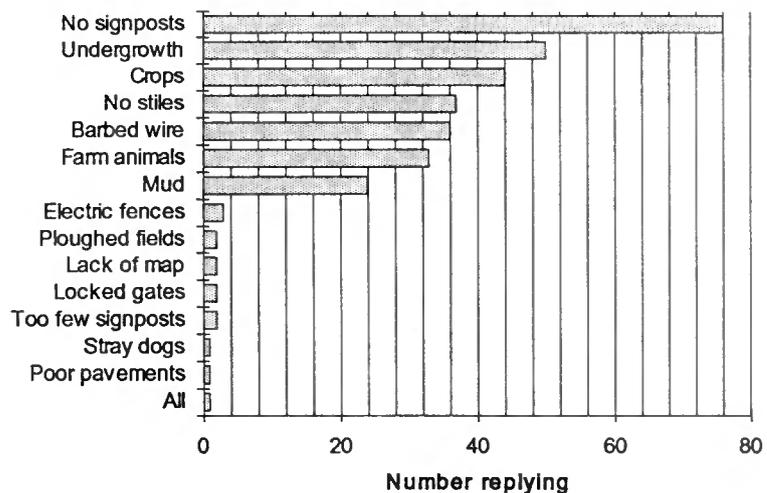
the 1990 Rights of Way Act, forty-four people found paths obstructed by crops and two cases of infringements of the ploughing regulations were mentioned. Other significant difficulties included barbed wire and electric fences, no stiles or locked gates and farm animals. An additional problem raised was conflict that can arise between ramblers and the field sports that use the countryside.

A section of people were concerned about the future of the footpath network and a few suggestions were put forward to ensure its future. In reply to the often felt antagonism between ramblers and those responsible for the upkeep of the network, a forum



The scattered and linear nature of Coaley means that a high proportion of the villagers have close access to the network of footpaths and bridleways. This point is highlighted by the high usage brought out by the questionnaire. One hundred people use it monthly, eighty-two weekly and sixty-eight daily. Of these people, 65% could usually follow them without much difficulty. When problems did arise, the main one was the lack of signposting, particularly once off the roads. Undergrowth posed a problem to fifty people. Despite

Difficulties in Walking the Village Footpaths





of all concerned parties was thought important. Here, the local footpath maps could be discussed, with a view to re-routing a few of the more contentious and little used paths. Circular walks would be welcomed. The general maintenance of the pathways and bridleways was considered very important and worth doing by one hundred and twenty people and should, ideally, be upheld by users, District Councils and landowners. The misuse of paths and bridleways was highlighted by a number of people, in particular their use by motorcycles. This 'misuse' was seen as noise pollution and to be detrimental to the flora and fauna.

"The roads and verges should be kept tidy, while the fields are kept for wildlife."

"When we first moved to Coaley we could hear crickets in the grass but now we can't. Don't let the plants growing in the hedges and verges go the same way."

"No caravans to be left permanently on driveways."

"More emphasis on conservation and encouraging wildlife in the countryside."

"Ramblers should keep to the footpaths, keep dogs leashed through livestock and remember that diseases can be carried by them from one farm to another."

"Fines for dog fouling in public areas."

"A reduction in some of the more unsavoury farm smells and those from Lucas ingredients."

Questionnaire comments

In the streams 'are often found certain Stones resembling Cockles, Periwinkles, Oysters, and the like, of which much Curiosity and Delight to looke upon, and to consider. Which I rather think to bee the gameful Sportes of Nature, than with the grete Philosopher of this Age, to have byn sometime livinge Creatures, engendered in the Sea, and by the Water cast up in this and like Places, and soe to be Shell-fishes stonified'.

from Smythe 1639

Coaley Peak - Coaley's own Nature Reserve

John Smythe, the Berkeley historian, writing in 1639, like Rudder, was not very impressed with the village of Coaley:

"The dirty streets whereof seeme recompensed in Part with the Hilles encompassing the Eastern Part of this Parishe; the most eminent wereof is called Couly Pike; where to beholde young Men and Maids ascendinge and descendinge, and Boies tumblinge down, especially on Communion Daies, in the Afternoon, what Time the Resorte is greatest, bringeth noe small Delight to many of the elder Sort alsoe delighting therein'.

Local tradition has it that the young William Shakespeare was brought up in Falstaff's Cottage (now Peak Cottage) and Coaley Peak with its wonderful panoramic views to the Malverns and the Welsh Hills certainly makes a wonderful bank on which to dream away a Midsummer's Night!



Coaley Peak was part of the common land of the village until taken in by the Enclosures when it became part of Ham Farm. In 1965 Dr. Joan Evans of Wotton-under-Edge sold a piece of silver to purchase the land which she then presented to the National Trust. In turn it is leased to the Gloucestershire Trust for Nature Conservation.

Part of the Cotswold Scarp it was grazed by sheep until the time of the First World War, and has always been an area of open grassland with a rich variety of lime-loving flowers in the short grass. Primroses, cowslips, bellflowers and orchids grow in profusion but there is a constant battle to be waged against bracken, bramble, and the army of small trees eager to recreate the woodland which clothes most of the scarp slope. The Quarry once provided freestone building blocks, and is now home to jackdaws, and the fruit trees, which are the legacy of gypsy encampments from earlier times.



Children's Section



The pivot of any happy, thriving community must surely be its children. This belief led the Village Appraisal Committee to encourage the active participation of the children in its survey. We would like to thank them for the time and care they have spent on their replies. Their refreshing comments and opinions are to be both valued and treasured.

Forty children (twenty-three boys and seventeen girls) replied, with ages ranging from five to eleven. A little over half fell into the 8-10 age group.

Much of the vitality of our community can be attributed to the excellence of its school.

Transport to and from school was more or less equally divided between walking and travelling by car (some apparently doing both), with only a small percentage travelling by bus or bike.

Pleasingly, the children make good use of the village network of footpaths, with 41% using them weekly and 18% daily.

There were many innovative ideas for keeping the village tidy, with the majority in favour of providing more litter bins and making use of voluntary collectors. Some children clearly thought that there was a collective responsibility with 7% suggesting that we



should all pick up litter as we see it, while others thought that education was the answer to this problem. But for some (10%), financial retribution was considered to be an effective deterrent.

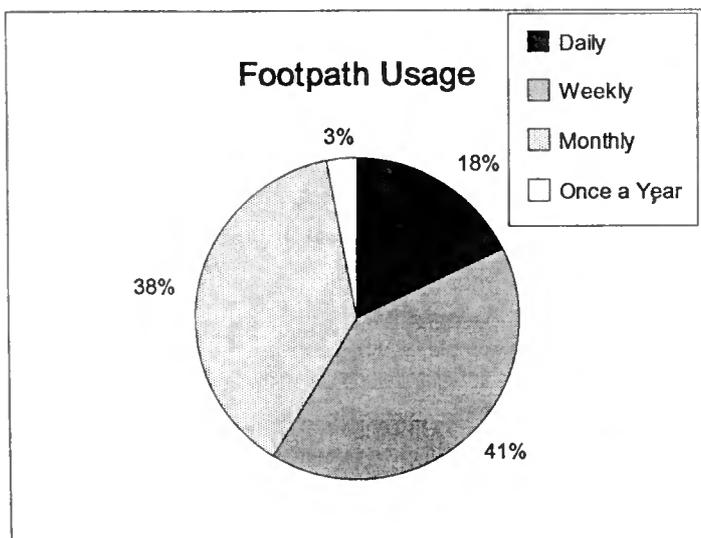
"Fix up video cameras in certain places so if anybody drops litter you will have them on camera and then you can go to their house and fine them."

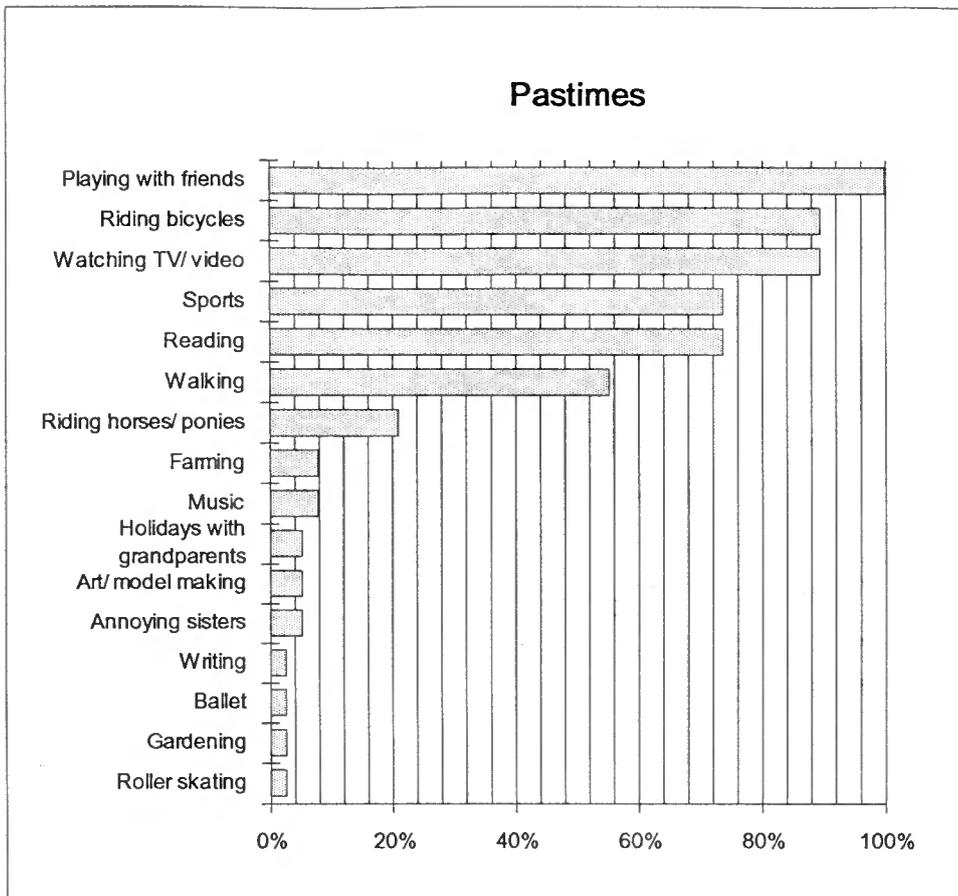
Questionnaire comment

On the subject of the local countryside, (20%) of the children who replied to this question thought that a restriction on house building would improve the quality of the local countryside, with 15% urging adequate provision of stiles and gates on the local footpaths. Again, 20% were concerned by dog fouling, with 10% favouring a ban on pesticide, and a further 10% calling for conservation and the planting of more trees and hedges. Other suggestions ranged from building more streams and providing more litter bins, with one thoughtful ten year old suggesting that to improve our environment: *'People should be more quieter in the village and be more polite.'*

The question of how the children spent their spare time, brought out a wide variety of interests and hobbies. Happily all recorded that they spent time with friends, with many listing watching television as a popular activity. As many enjoyed reading as enjoyed active sports (74%). The comments of the victims of the 5% of Coaley children who spend their time *'annoying sisters'* are not recorded!

Many of the children take an active part in village clubs and societies, such as Watch or Stepping Stones, but many others have to travel beyond the village to attend Beavers, Cubs and Guides. The Coaley Watch group distinguished themselves in 1991 by gaining four out of the thirteen gold awards presented, nationally, that year.





who thought that the advantage of having adult members in a cycling club was that there would always be someone around to mend the punctures.

The new playground, behind the village hall, was built in 1990 after much fund-raising by adults and children in Coaley. It is gratifying to learn that the majority of those who replied make use of this playground at least once a week.

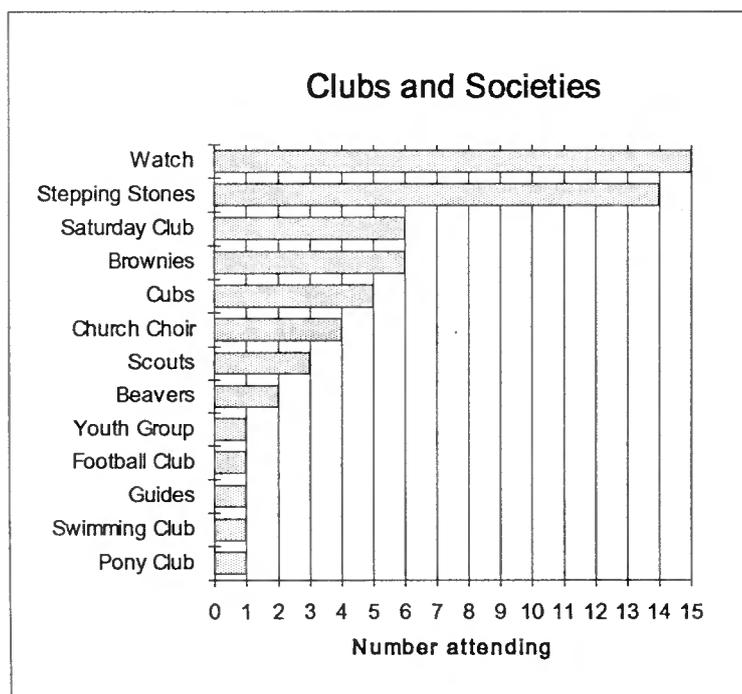
There were many suggestions for additional play equipment. It may be some time, however, before the Parish Council raises the funds to build a swimming pool or skateboard park as some requested!

On the question of which clubs or societies should be formed, there were almost as many different suggestions as there were replies. Requests ranged from Scuba diving and Windsurfing to a Teenage W.I.



It is interesting to note that many children would welcome clubs where they could join with adult members such as walking and animal/bird watching. This includes those

The playground on Betworthy is used by three-quarters of those who replied once a month or more, with nearly a quarter using it daily, and so it is important to note that 60% would like to see a climbing frame added to the equipment.



An encouraging 85% of the children who replied make regular use of their school libraries, with some using the services of the mobile library as well as Dursley and Gloucester libraries. This reflects the response to an earlier question, showing that 74% are regular readers.

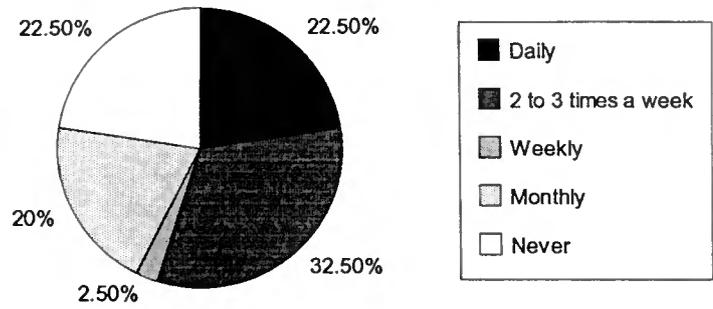
When asked what could be done to improve life in Coaley, the replies reflected the concern for the environment shown previously. Sixty-three per cent of those who replied felt that speeding traffic detracts from the quality of their life. There were so many suggestions that it would not



be possible to list them all here but there was a general call for more village events, such as a Village Fair, pantomime, pet show or bonfire, with others suggesting the addition of a duck pond, tree planting and providing more seats on the green. Some felt that life would be sweeter if there were less swearing and bullying by older boys, while others long for more discos and parties, possibly held at the proposed carvery/restaurant!

Whatever their concerns for the future, a general appreciation and care for the continuity of our community and its environment is apparent among our children.

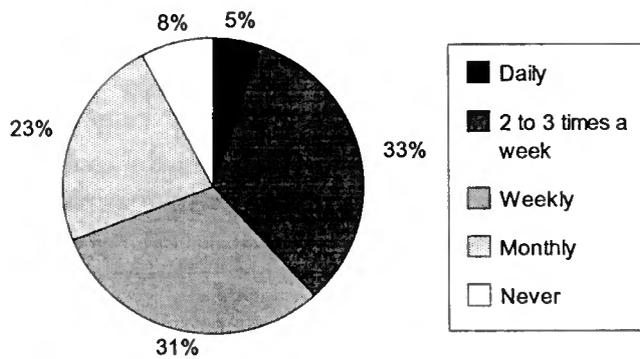
Use of Betworthy Playground



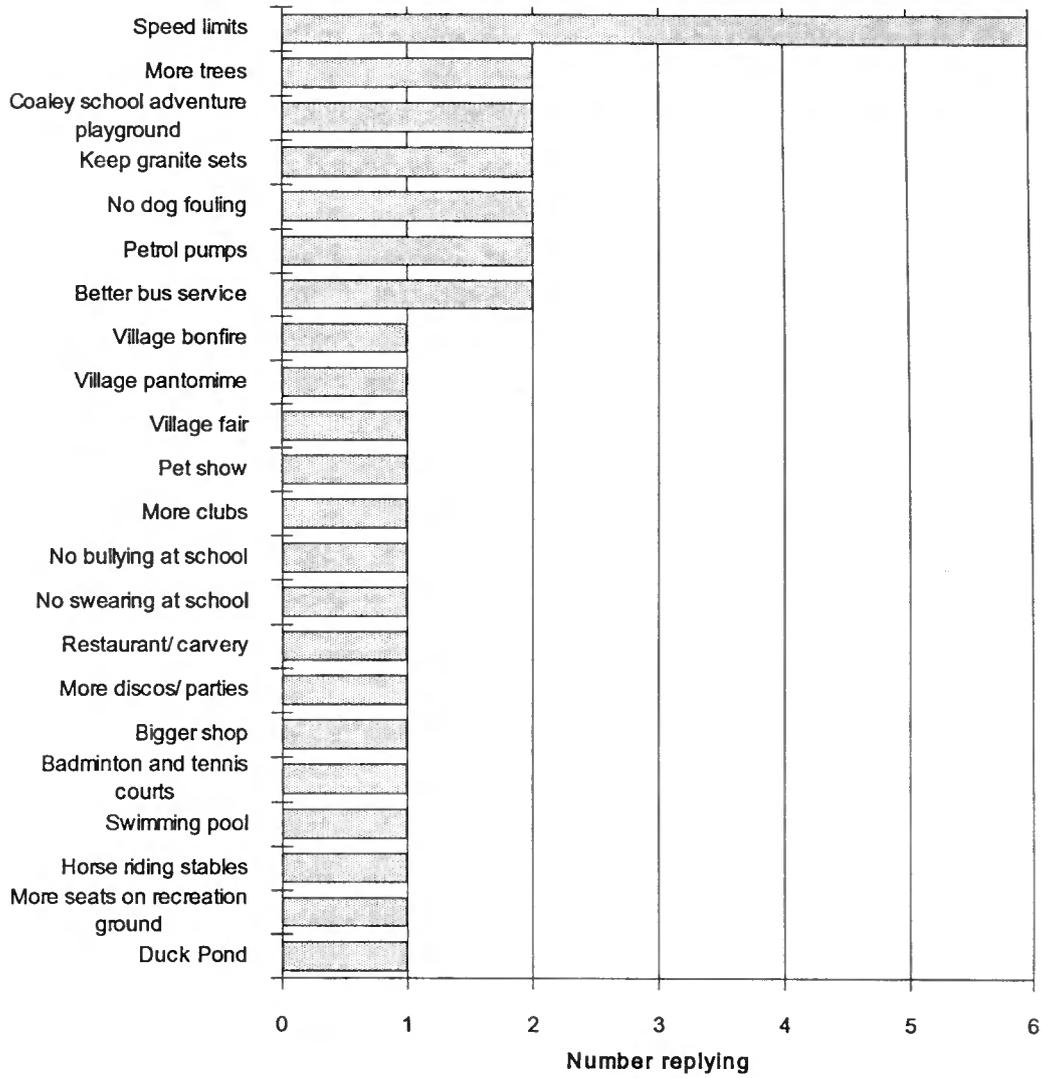
"Stop the removal of granite sets along kerbs - I like old things."

Questionnaire comment

Use of Village Hall Playground



Children's Ideas on How to Improve Life in Coaley

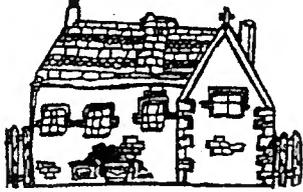


Playtime at Coaley School

COALEY C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Coaley Primary School is a thriving primary school with just under eighty children on the roll and strong links with the local community. Most of the children come from the village and the school seeks both to draw from, and contribute to, village life in as many ways as possible.

COALEY



C. of E. SCHOOL

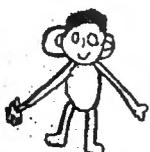
Coaley C of E Primary School
(drawn by the pupils)

The present school building dates from 1864 and a glance at the early school register reveals family names still present in the area today. The number of pupils has fluctuated over the years, rising to over one hundred and thirty in the early years of this century and falling to around fifty in the recent past, before reaching the present figure of seventy-four.

The school boasts a lovely playing field, which has been developed as an 'out-of-doors classroom', with a pond, meadow, wood and garden.

As a church school, the school maintains strong links with the Church of England and the local church, whilst actively welcoming children of all creeds and beliefs. School services are held at regular intervals throughout the year and our vicar is a welcome visitor.

Parents and friends of the school provide a vital contribution to school life, in terms of expertise and support.



Michael Morgan

In any one week up to twenty-five adults may be helping in school, in activities as diverse as woodwork, cooking,

accompanying trips and helping out in the school office. The school works to make such helpers feel both welcome and valued.



Marie Anne

Many more parents are involved through the Friends of Coaley School (FOCS) which was set up to forge even closer links within the whole school community as well as raising money for school funds.

The school seeks to provide not only a solid education for all its pupils, but an exciting environment in which to learn. Recent events for instance, have included an Arts Week with visiting poet, story tellers and an author.



Joanne Greenway

In any one year, the children of the school draw from the local community in a whole range of ways; interviewing Parish Councillors, farmers and older inhabitants of the village in the course of project work; visiting local businesses; drawing on the expertise of local residents, and much more.

In return, the school seeks to contribute wherever possible to community life. Regular social gatherings organised by the school, such as concerts, carol services, barn dances and discos are open to all villagers. There are strong links with the pre-school playgroup and the local secondary school. The school recently played a leading



Mr. Booth



Lessons at Coaley School

part in contributing towards the 'Village Map' displayed in the Village Hall and has played an active rôle in supporting the village appraisal.

The old school was on the south side of Victoria Street and next to it was the Schoolmaster's house. A penny had to be paid before children could attend. The present school was built in 1864 on land given by Lord Fitzhardinge of Berkeley. The old school became the Reading Room and then a place for first aid classes, Scouts, etc.



Colswold Stone Cottages
Ham Lane



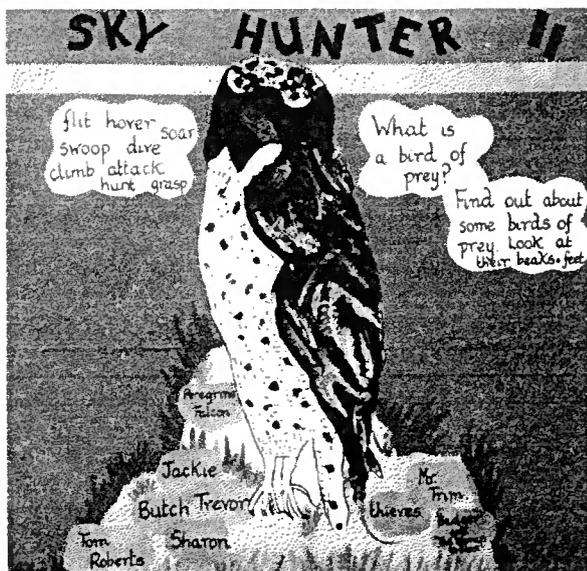
A famous 'Son of Coaley'

Mr. Hancock of Betworthy farm had three daughters, one of whom married the Coaley baker, Mr. Hill. He baked gingerbread to sell at the local fairs, and eventually gave up the bakery to become a travelling showman, with a ride of wooden horses. The romance of the fairground took over and the four sons, and at least one daughter, Milly, became showmen. Daughter Bertha, however, caught the eye of the dashing young son of the Vicar of Leonard Stanley, William Butlin. Wooded and wed, the young couple left for South Africa just before the turn of the century. But married life did not work out and Bertha returned to Coaley, to her sister Jessie Curtis at the Swan public house, bringing with her, her two small sons. Little Binkie, "Sonny Butlin", died and is buried in Coaley churchyard, the elder grew up as Billy Butlin. Miss Doris Curtis, daughter of the wheelwright at the Old Forge, brushed his hair and took him to school for the first time. One day she asked him if he would like some seed cake, "yes Auntie" he replied, "if you take the tin tacks out"! On a village outing to Butlin's Holiday Camp, Billy Butlin gave a special message of welcome over the loudspeaker but declined to meet the group himself - Coaley held too many unhappy memories.

Mrs Wills



MRS. FAULKNET



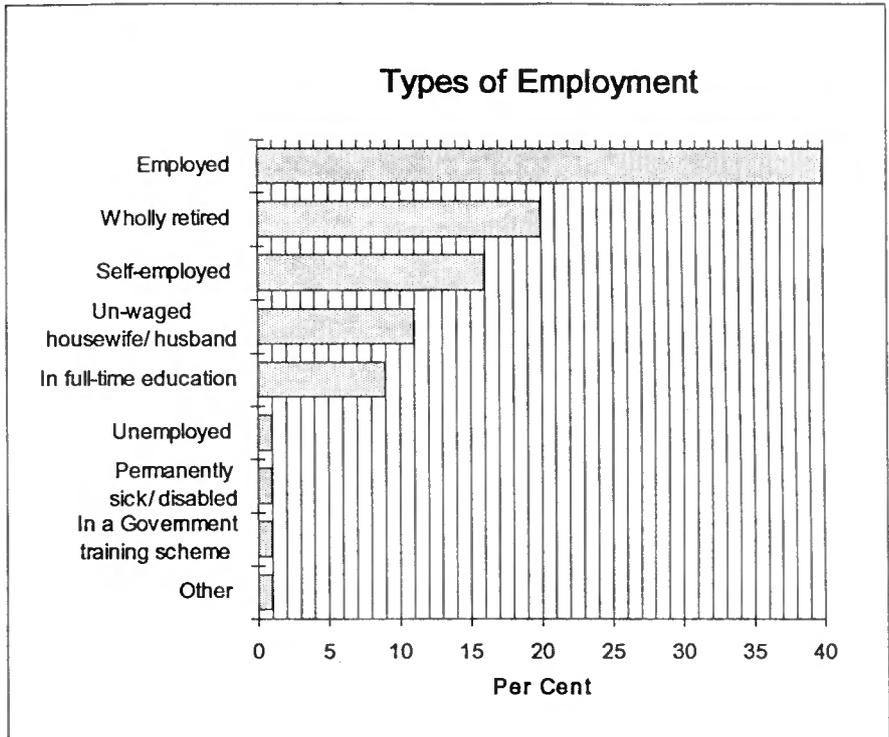
Example of Pupils' Work

The Parliamentary Gazette in 1839 reported:
'Extreme ignorance characterizes this parish in spite of two schools.'

Employment

Apart from farming, no longer a labour intensive occupation, there is little employment in the village.

Some people are self-employed, working from home, and about one fifth of those who replied are wholly retired. The figures shown in detail on the graph are what might be expected in a rural community, with about two thirds of the population working or studying and the remainder looking after the house and family, or retired. One quarter of those who do paid work, do so part-time.



Nearly half of the wage earners are in unspecified service industries. So diverse is the nature of local jobs that to try and classify them by types, under a short list, is extremely difficult.

Of those who earned wages, 6% are unskilled or semi-skilled manual workers, 22% are skilled manual workers, 13% clerical workers and a very high 58% in a professional or

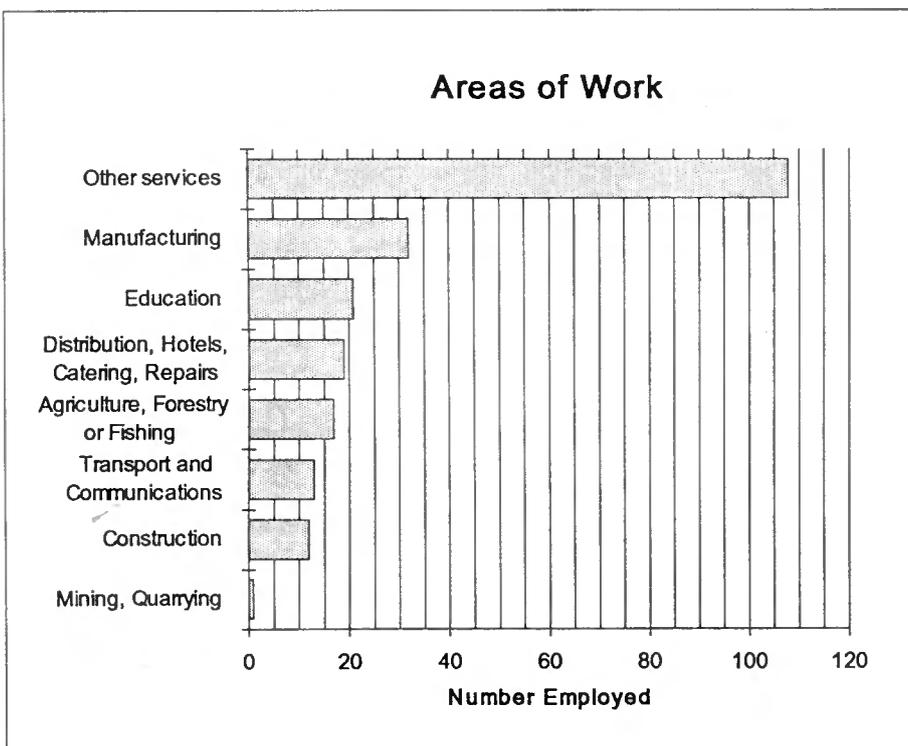
managerial capacity.

Some 38% of those who replied do voluntary work of some kind.

Less than one quarter of those working or studying do so within the parish. Thirty-nine per cent work or study within ten miles of home, and this figure will include nearly all of school age, twenty-five per cent work more than ten miles away. Thirteen per cent work more than thirty miles away and this last figure may include students at college outside the county and those who may be away at night on long journeys, or who are away during the working week, and even those whose work takes them abroad.

Transport to and from work is, therefore, of prime importance.

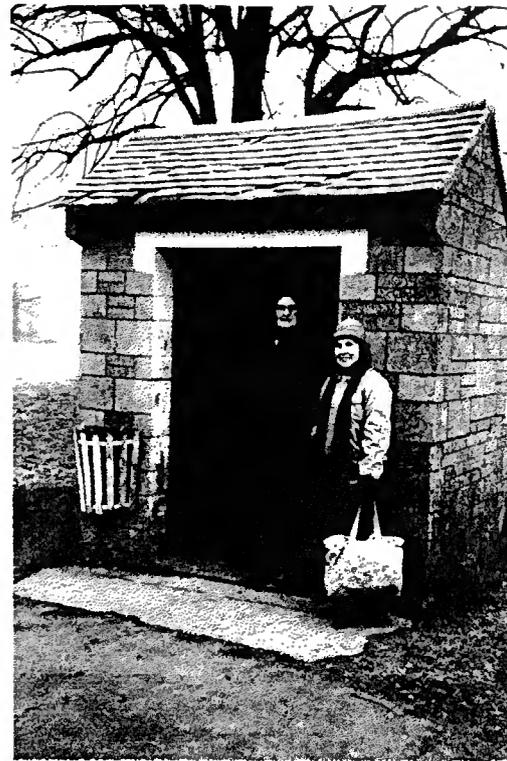
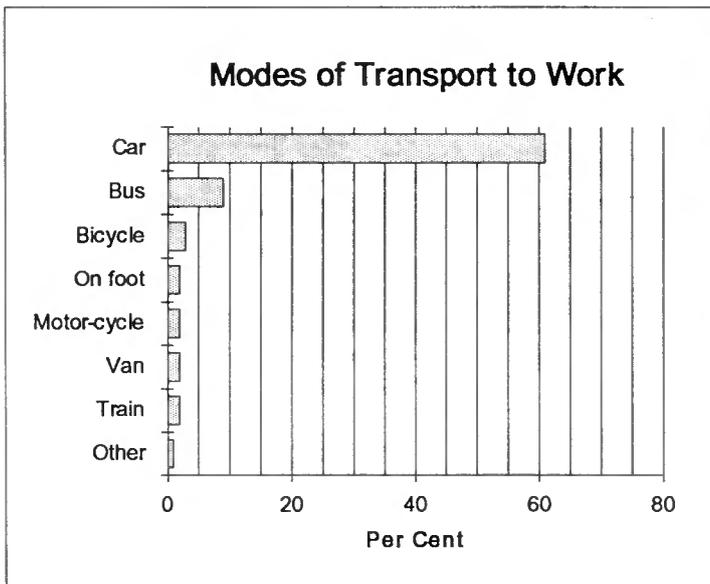
There is a term time school bus and an early morning works service bus, both of



which run to Dursley. The only public transport serving Coaley is a bus which calls twice a day, for three days in the week, at times unsuited to commuting. This bus goes to Dursley on two days and to Gloucester on the other day. The nearest railway stations are at Stroud and Stonehouse, both about seven miles away.

Private, or shared private, transport is essential to get to work outside the village.

The major means of transport to work or study are shown graphically.



What Day is the Bus Due?

With the problems and expense of getting out of the village to work, work might be brought into Coaley as a solution. When asked if a few small scale light industrial workshops were proposed for the village/parish, half of those who replied were against the idea, one third were in favour and the remainder expressed no opinion.

Those in favour of small scale units did specify sited workshops - such as craft workshops - built away from residential areas and for the employment of local people.

Transport

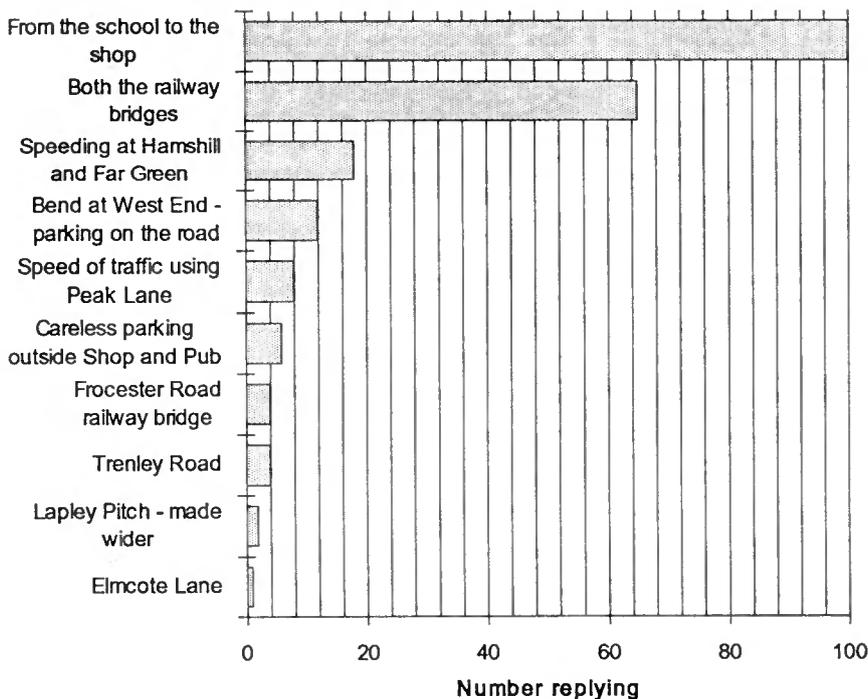


Public transport has sadly declined in the village during the last fifteen years. There are now no buses through the village at weekends and only one bus runs to Dursley and back, on Tuesdays and Thursdays. A works service operates to Dursley each weekday morning at 7.15 a.m., returning at approximately 4.00 p.m. A private company

Is it because of the lack of public transport that 85% of residents answered that they had daytime access to a vehicle, or is the fact that almost every home has a car, the cause of the decline in public transport? Whatever the reason, private vehicles are used for business journeys (43%), transport to work (54%), shopping (87%) and leisure (94%).



Danger Spots in the Village



A suggested scheme for sharing private transport for shopping, trips to work, etc. did not appear popular, with less than one third willing to participate and only a fifth willing to take up the offer. The local taxi service also appeared unpopular, with 91% answering that they never used the service.

Speed restrictions through the village have been discussed and hotly debated for almost twenty years. 92% would like to see speed restrictions in the village and 68% (106 men and 132 women) would like to see more street lighting.

runs a bus to Gloucester for shoppers on Wednesday morning. School children who attend Rednock Comprehensive in Dursley are transported by school bus.

Apart from school children who use the school bus, it is mostly the older residents of the village who use the bus and the majority of these less than five times a month. 80% of those who answered the questionnaire never used the bus service. When asked 'How important is the bus service to you?' the same picture emerged. Only 20% said that it was essential or important, but many felt that the service should be retained and perhaps subsidised.



Private transport is essential



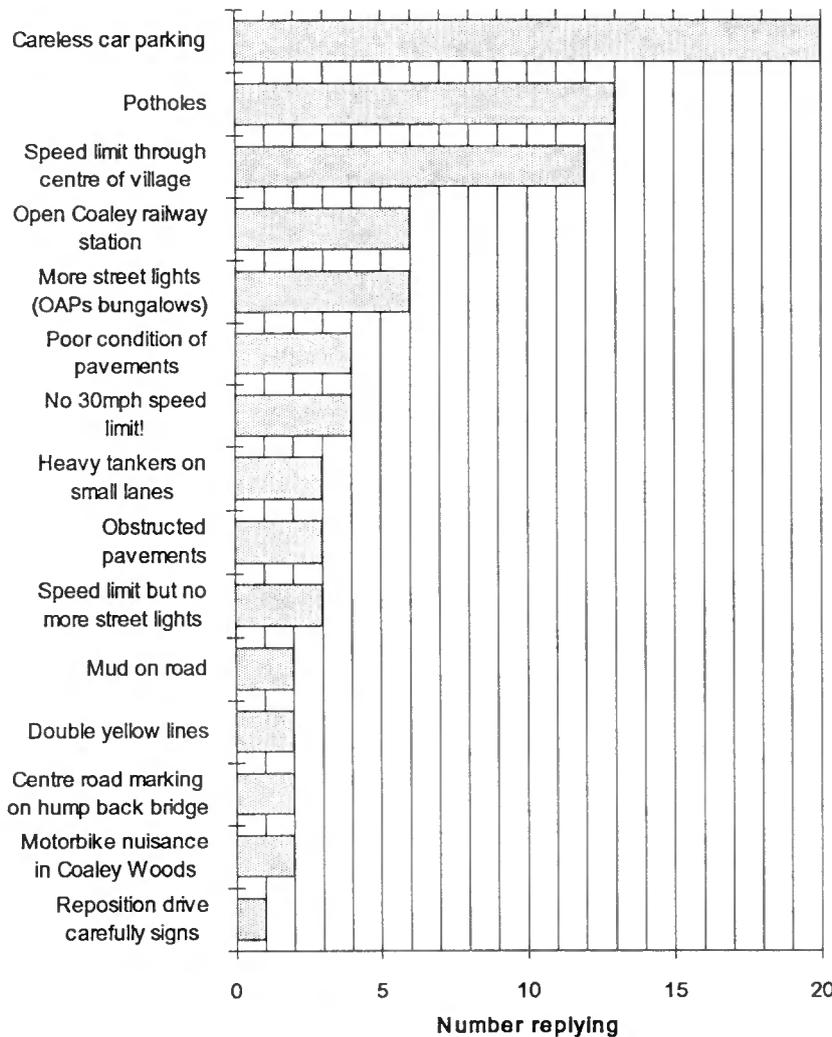
Every returned questionnaire contained a comment on the excessive speed of traffic using roads through the village. The very nature of the roads, which are quite narrow and steep in places makes them dangerous when used at speed.

Several replies showed concern about the number of large and heavy lorries and tankers that are now using the roads and lanes.

pavements in this area, but happily these have been partially resurfaced since the questionnaire, and a programme is in place to complete the rest of this stretch when finances permit. The restricted visibility when approaching the railway bridge on the Frocester road was also considered to be a considerable hazard as well as careless parking throughout the village.



Comments on Traffic Problems



The 'cures' suggested for speeding ranged from 'sleeping policemen' to a strictly enforced speed limit. The latter having been suggested for many years but alas very hard to enforce even if a speed limit was introduced!

Several comments were received regarding the possible re-opening of Coaley Junction. The District and County Councils are at the present time looking into this development, although villages nearer to Bristol may take preference.

"Village is a race-track."

"Reinstate all white lines."

"Only speeding makes the local roads dangerous."

"Traffic calming methods to deliberately slow traffic in centre of village."

"Too many road improvements could encourage speeding."

"Too much mud left by tractors on roads."

"Open Coaley Junction Station."

Questionnaire comments

The most notorious danger-spot, according to comments in the questionnaire, was the stretch of road from the school to the shop, which includes the Church, and the road alongside the recreation ground. Many pointed out the poor condition of the



Kelvin.



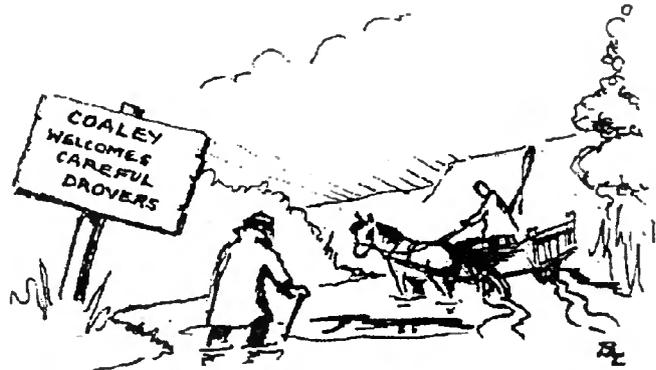
Peak Lane was an important route to the Bacon Factory at Nympsfield. Pigs were taken up the road diverting onto the Bacon Track that goes steeply up the side of the hill, across the end of the Quarry, over the road, and directly through the fields to Nympsfield.



The railway came in 1840.

When the new 'black' road was built from Coaley Mill to the river bridge, a toll gate was set up to pay for it. Many avoided payment by driving their carts along the stream.

Peak Lane was made into a metaled road so that the Queen, then staying at Badminton House, could travel by the most direct route to visit the Severn Wildfowl Trust.



"Worst roads in the world..." Rudder 1779

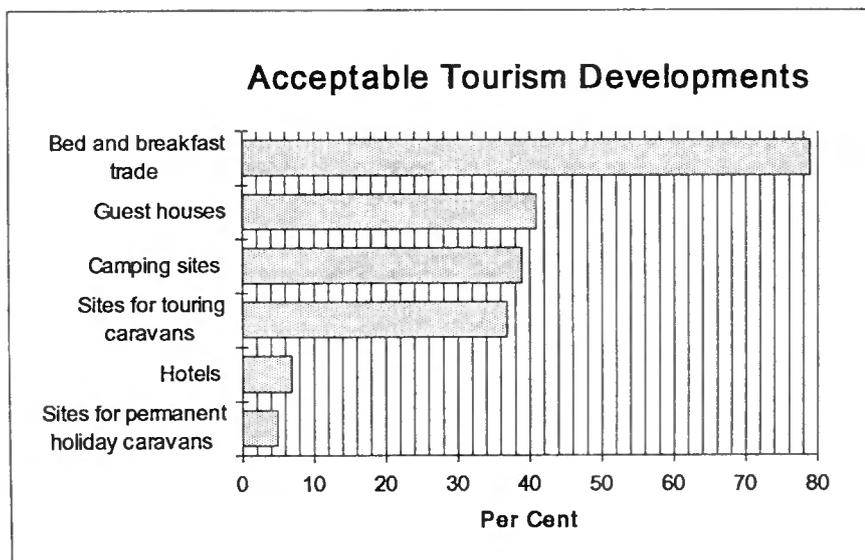
The motorway was opened in 1970.

Tourism

When asked if more tourism should be encouraged in and around Coaley, thirty-nine per cent said yes, forty-three per cent said no and eighteen per cent did not express any opinion. Most of those replying are opposed to any large scale tourism and want to keep Coaley rural.



Those areas of tourism that were acceptable, to those in favour, are shown graphically.



Local Industry

At the entrance to the school playing field was the Village Saw Pit. Before the days of power tools, planks were cut from tree trunks with a long saw with handles at both ends. One man stood on a trestle and the other in the pit below and they worked the saw up and down between them.



In the second half of the nineteenth century, weaving was still done in the village cottages and cloth taken to the mills at Stroud, walking up over Coaley Peak and across Selsley Common.

The Old Forge was where the wheelwright worked. The wooden sections of the wheel were placed in the hub and a hot metal band, heated in the forge, was dropped over the whole. The band was then doused in cold water, causing it to shrink tight onto the wooden sections of the wheel. John the Blacksmith worked at The Forge with the smithy in the building adjacent to the road. At one time the rest of the house was three separate homes.

There are known to have been two mills in Coaley. One by the stream just below Field Farm and the other Goring's Mill. The upper mill was originally a corn grist (animal feed) mill. Goring's Mill had two grist mills in the 1300s but in 1674 were recorded as Fulling mills. Here cloth which had been woven in local cottages was washed and pounded with Fuller's earth, to remove oils and glues. In 1734 the mill became an edge-tool works, which made Coaley shovels. Spades and shovels were taken by cart to Cambridge to be loaded onto barges at Coaley wharf. The water wheels drove a tilt hammer. Later a big steam hammer stood in Terrett's field on the other side of the road. This hammer banged out the shovels and could be heard in Wotton-under-Edge *'when it was going to rain'*!

In the 1970s and 80s the mill was used as a flour mill using hydroelectric power. Mr. Goring now builds electrically powered 'Everhot' cookers, water turbines and stone grinding mills for grinding corn.



Coaley Mill

Shopping



Nadia Russell

In common with many other villages, retail outlets have diminished over the years with the advent of Supermarkets and increased ownership of cars. For many years, Coaley boasted a number of shops. The main village store was run by Mr. Griffin from 1930 until 1968 in the premises now known as The Old Post Office, selling most goods including petrol, oil, paraffin (no electricity), hardware and haberdashery. The services offered included weekly grocery deliveries and recharging of wireless batteries. During these years, a second and smaller shop was situated in Wisteria House, the site of the existing village shop. The owner, a Mr. Matthews, used a horse and trap. Unlike the severe competition existing between shops today, the owners of these two shops were very friendly and helped each other out, when necessary. In addition, there was a butcher's shop at Telford House, run by the Pegler brothers.

Since 1968, Coaley has been served by only one shop, presently run by Mr. and Mrs. Gore. Notwithstanding the proximity of alternative shopping centres, such as Cam and Dursley, the village shop provides a wide range of goods including fresh bread daily and regular supplies of fresh fruit and vegetables to cover the day to day needs of the village. Since the present owners took over, the range of services has increased to include local newspapers, a prompt dry cleaning agency and video rentals.

According to the survey, 10% of those who replied use the shop daily and 47% weekly. The most popular reason for shopping in the village (75%) was to support the local shop, followed by the saving in time (56%) and the saving in transport costs (41%). Another point to come out of the survey was that 93 people used their local Post Office to tax their cars, a facility not



Michael

available at Coaley Post Office!



Elaine

Eighty-three per cent of those replying said that the village store was important to them.

Footnote

This report is a snapshot of Coaley at the time of the questionnaire. Unfortunately the village shop closed just prior to publication. The information on the shop, correct at the time of the questionnaire, has been left in for completeness.



Coaley Post Office Stores

A Plymouth Brethren Chapel stood on the site of The Bungalow, just above the turn to Trenley Road, which had a pool for baptism by total immersion. This was also the site of the combined Post Office and Baker's Shop. Telford House was the butcher's and Adey House the undertaker's.



Simon Walker

Social and Recreational

PUBLIC HOUSES

The Fox and Hounds is the only public house in a village that, according to oral tradition, once held as many as thirty-six pubs. This heady reputation may arise from the fact that many homes made their own cider or brewed their own beer (hops still grow in the hedgerow in Haw Street), and were willing to sell it to friends and travellers. Such small pubs rejoiced in the name of Tiddlywinks.

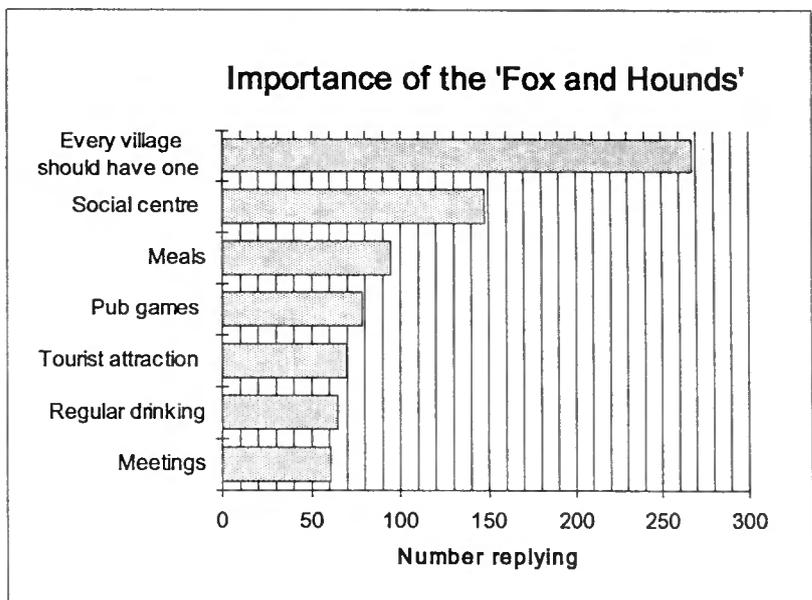


The Drovers Arms was on the Bristol Road near Wickster's Bridge, where the Parishes of Frocester, Eastington, Coaley and Frampton met. Once, perhaps, important to those travelling to Gloucester Market, the modern pace of life meant it's closure in 1968.

The Swan closed in 1975 and may well qualify as the oldest of our hostleries. During renovation, following closure, workmen discovered a Roman penny under the door sill!

Unrecorded pubs are said to have existed at the junction of Trenley Road and Haw Street, and in Peak Lane where snowdrops and a walnut tree are all that remain of the old garden. Luke's Orchard was once a pub and Far Green Cottage was called The New Inn at the beginning of the century.

The Heart of Oak, now Oak House, was built in 1905 - the original pub was a thatched house in the garden behind and was licensed as The Head of Oak. It was closed in 1963.



The Fox and Hounds, owned by Pat and Alan Adamson, is a picturesque village pub, providing liquid refreshment and meals for villagers and visitors alike. It serves as a useful meeting place and social centre, including a base for a number of domino and skittles teams.



The Fox and Hounds During the Last War





The most popular social activity in the village is the Women's Institute. The Coaley Women's Institute began in April 1941 with twenty-eight members and the Village Appraisal was taken during their Golden Jubilee in 1991. Two daughters of a founder member are among the present forty-four members. Forty members responded to the questionnaire.

Skittles was the second most popular activity, with twenty-five men and twenty-three women playing regularly. Three local teams play at the Fox and Hounds; Guys and Dolls and Coaley Junctioners (both mixed teams) and Moonlighters (an all ladies team).



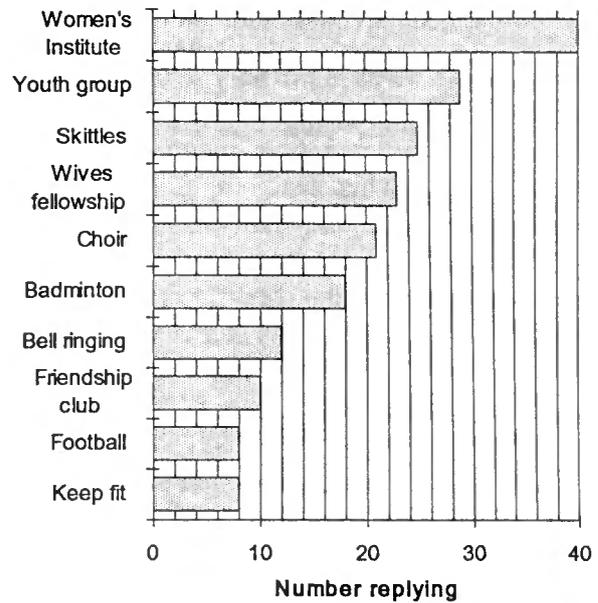
The Church Choir, Bell Ringing, Badminton and Wives' Fellowship are all well supported, with the Friendship Club for the older residents. The younger generation are catered for by the Youth Group, Brownies, Stepping Stones and the Coaley Watch Group (the youth section of the National Trust for Nature Conservation).

Only eight women who replied were involved with keep fit and strangely five women and only three men were involved with football. Coaley Rovers, the local football team fields two teams, but only seven of the players actually live in Coaley.

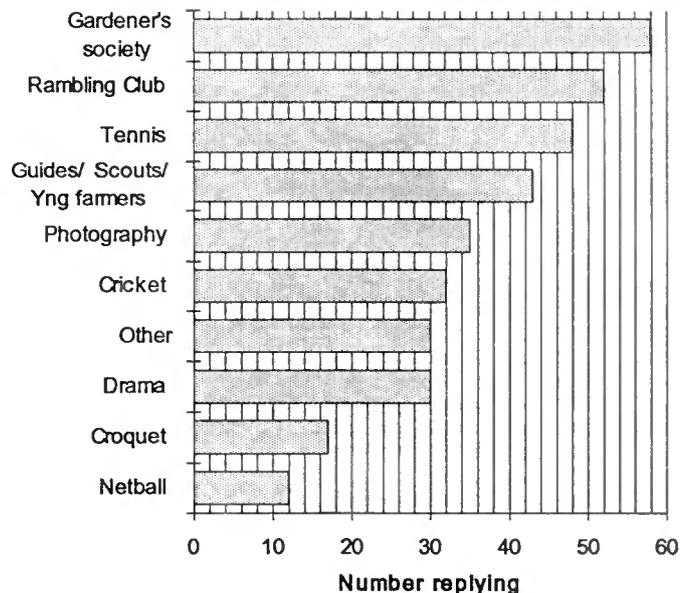
Of the new social activities or clubs suggested, a Gardener's Society was the most popular, with men and women alike. This was closely followed by rambling (born out by the fact that sixty-eight local people regularly use the footpaths in and around the village).

In order of popularity, tennis, guiding, scouting, Young Farmers, photography, cricket, drama, croquet and netball were all suggested along with twenty-two further clubs or activities, including an 'Old Farmer's Club'!

Club Membership



Clubs Wanted



Annual events held in Coaley include the Produce Show and two Church events, the Summer Fête and the Music Hall.

The Produce Show began in 1942 and was originally called the Home/Food/Produce Show. The Women's Institute gave £15.5s.0d to defray the cost of staging the first show - this princely sum having been raised by them at Whist Drives held at The Firs, the home of the then W.I. President Mrs. Prout. The first show was very successful, raising £11.14s.9½d to be put towards the next show. The original show was held at the school and a fair was held on the same day in the field opposite The Elms.

1992 celebrates the 50th Anniversary of this annual village show, which now has eight winners cups, one runners-up cup, a rose bowl and a wooden spoon for the men's cooking section. The President is Arthur Wilcox and the Secretary Christine Purnell.

The village Hall, built in 1953, is well supported by the local clubs, as well as mother and toddler groups and playgroups. It was recently fitted with double glazing and the insulation and heating system greatly improved. The hall is used by two thirds of those who answered the questionnaire.

Country Colour

Brown. It promises no poetry. It has no place along the curving palette of the rainbow; yet covers in rich corduroy the sleepy fields of winter, and holds the future of their green and gold.

Brown. It dresses both the predator and prey, the tawny owl, the vole. The neat dun cassock of the wren enfolds a miracle of song. The bracken, rusty-crisp, conceals the spears that launch a spring invasion.

Brown. Each silky chestnut dreams of unborn trees, and autumn's toasted leaves, the cornflakes of the wood, re-tell beneath the scuffling feet of children their parable of making way for life.

Beneath the snowdrop, white and bravely fragile, beneath the brilliant spectrum of the summer, the colour of the countryside, of earth's regeneration, is brown.

Audrey Harbord's winning entry for the Denman Cup competition of the Women's Institute, January 1989, competitors being given the title of the poem.

PANTO CAST IGNORED BLIZZARD

OUTSIDE a blizzard raged, some members of the cast couldn't make it due to the snow and the hall was only half full. The portents didn't augur well, but in the event those brave enough to defy the elements to see the Friends of Coaley School's pantomime, *Sing a Song of Sixpence*, certainly weren't disappointed.

F.O.C.S.
Pantomime 1982

The landscape outside may have resembled a Siberian tundra but inside the village hall there was nothing but warm cheer as the cast got to grips with Trevor Jenkins' excellent script.

It was a delightful yarn, revolving around the attempts of a wicked wizard to steal the King of Coaley's magic ring and plunge the village into ruin and servitude.

Roy Gage — who missed the first act because of a long walk through the snow — revelled in his role as the wizard, positively exuding nastiness, while Della Martin gave a marvellously vampish performance as Queen Ruby scheming to get her claws into King Cedric (Bob Coleman) and more importantly, his money.

The production moved easily from one scene to the next with a fine balance of traditional panto ingredients — knock about humour, romance, audience participation and good overcoming evil in the inevitable happy ending.

Gordon Farmer obviously enjoyed playing Bertha, the village baker unwittingly caught up in the wizard's dastardly scheme. He was definitely a hit with the kids, conducting the sing-a-long and handing out sweets at the end of the production.



Religion

COALEY PARISH CHURCH

Saint Bartholomew's Church in Coaley was built in the twelfth century, on land given by Lord Fitzhardinge of Berkeley, as a Chapel of Ease under the patron of the Abbots and covenant of Saint Peter's Gloucester until 1540. It was then under the jurisdiction of the Crown until 1867, when it came under the Bishop of Gloucester.

Nothing is known of the early building, but records show it had Vicars and Chaplains from 1250.

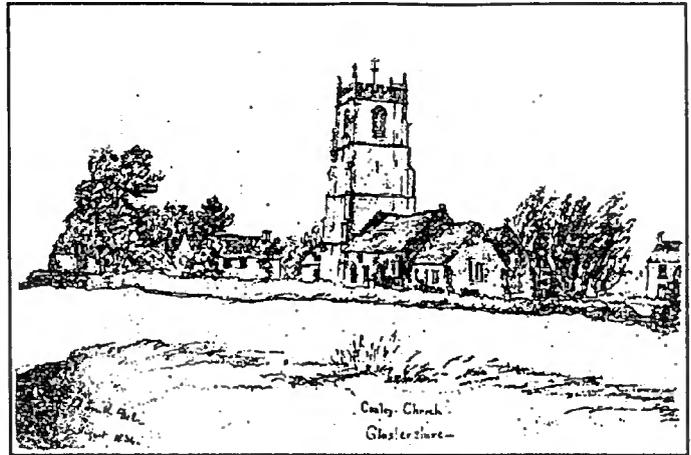


The earliest part of the present Church is the 14th century perpendicular tower, with embattled parapet and traceried panels. The tower contains six bells, which are rung regularly by campanologists from the village.

At a vestry meeting on 12th February 1857, notice was given to determine the pulling down and rebuilding of the nave and side aisle of the said Church, according to plans and specifications made by Messrs Jacques and Sons of Gloucester and that the space was to be made available on the north side to build a vestry. It would appear that then, as



Saint Bartholomew's today



Saint Bartholomew's in 1834

today, there was a very active Church congregation.

Opposite the Church stands a row of cottages built about the same time, and showing medieval corbel heads from the demolished Church. These cottages were built by the same builder Silvanus Watkins and are named Watkins Terrace.

In 1983 Coaley Parish Church was joined to the Parish of Lower Cam, Coaley vicarage was sold, and a meeting room built in the back of the Church.



Who's Who in Coaley Church

Vicar: Reverend Ian Robb
 Licensed Reader: Peter Ashman
 Church Wardens: Ken Browning-Smith
 Bob Clarke

Parochial Church Council:

Reverend Ian Robb, Peter Ashman,
 Pat Bozworth, Carole Brisland,
 Ken Browning-Smith, Bob Clarke,
 Peter Currin, Gordon Farmer,
 Isobel Farmer, Sue Gage, Deborah Hobson,
 Joyce Hibbs,
 Mollie Neale,
 Roy Randall,
 John Rendall,
 Mandy Troxler,
 Maureen Wibberley.

Deanery synod
 Representatives:

Carole Brisland,
 John Rendall

There are seventy three names on the Church Electoral Roll. Anyone whose name is on the Church Electoral Roll is qualified to vote for the P.C.C. members and the Deanery Synod representatives at the A.G.M., and also ask questions at the meeting.

There is a full time organist and a Choir.

Organist: Jenny Coles
 Choirmistress: Doreen Manning
 The choir has nineteen members.

The average weekly congregation is fifty.



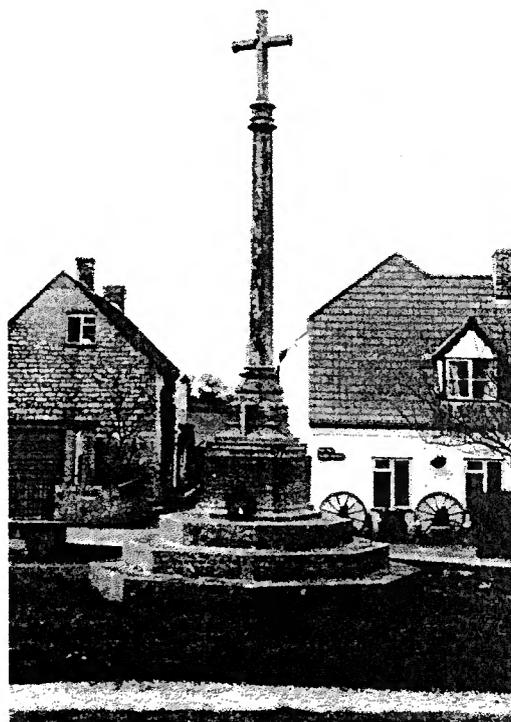
The annual income needed to keep the Church going is £10,872 in 1992. This includes our 'quota' of £7,592 for the Diocesan Common Fund.

THE METHODIST CHAPEL



The Methodist revival spread through England during the 18th century, it's pioneers being the Wesleys and Whitfields. Early in the 19th Century it came to Coaley. The first Methodist Service to be held in Coaley was in Hamshill. The preacher stood on the steps of Mr. Griffins bakers shop.

In 1807 some land was purchased in Far Green and a Chapel built but it had financial problems in 1840 with some £175 of building money still not repaid. Various bodies came to the Chapel's aid and membership ebbed and flowed for the next 30 years, and a new Chapel was built in 1871. During the time the new Chapel was being built, services were held in the Temperance Hall. This stood on the site of the house now known as Foxlea just above the present Village Stores and Post Office. The new Chapel seems to have been well used as the building costs, this time, were paid off quickly.



The War Memorial in St. Bartholomew's Churchyard

In the years leading up to the First World War the same pattern of attendance, up and down, continued, the war itself was the final depression that it hardly overcame. A revival took place in the 1930s when some young people became involved, but this declined again with World War II.

There was a small revival after the war with a Sunday School being set up, the Chapel had a few brief years of being well attended until some senior members passed away and in the early 60s, the attendance fell to three and it was finally decided to close in 1970.



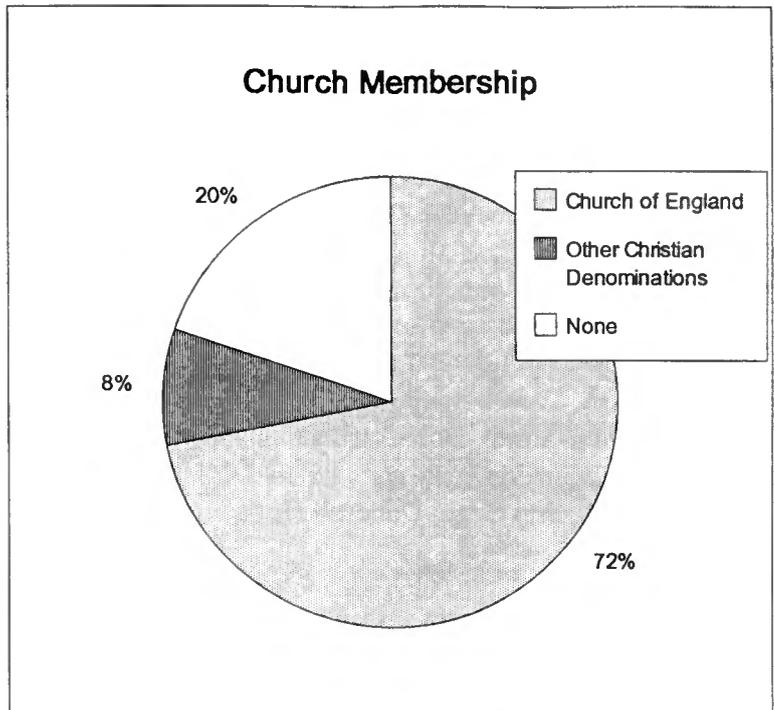
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Most of those who replied to the survey belong to the Church of England, while nearly twenty per cent have no religious affiliation.

Other Christian Denominations include:

Baptist, Free Christian Church, Lutheran, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Scottish Presbyterian, Society of Friends (Quakers) and the United Reform Church.

The majority of those replying believed that the Church had a rôle to play in the village, other than simply as a place of worship.



When asked whether the Church catered for the needs of today, forty per cent said 'Yes', twenty per cent said 'No', with most dissatisfaction noticeable among the younger age groups. In contrast, regardless of age or sex, a consistent forty per cent had 'No Opinion'. Eight per cent of those replying made additional comments on this section. These expressed the need for a link between the Church and the social realities of today, and reflected the need for outreach to the younger generation.

"There needs to be more ecumenical activity - we are not all Anglicans!"

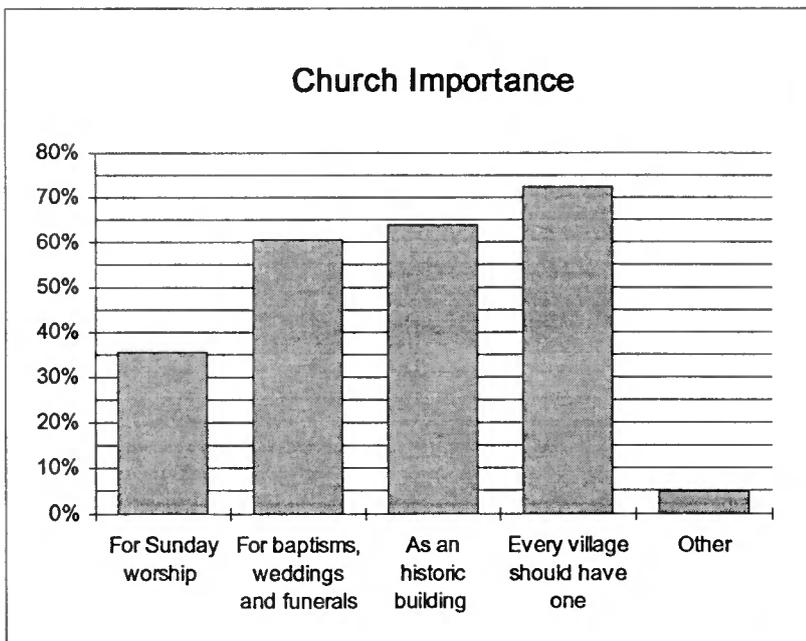
"Not all of us need to spend time on our knees each Sunday."

"Why can't people laugh in Church?"

"Definition of a village - it must have a church or it is a hamlet."

"Sad the minority have to struggle to finance this institution/building to keep it available for the majority's convenience."

Questionnaire comments



Communication and Information

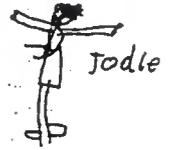
mrs. Houlihan



There are two telephone boxes in the village. Of the three hundred and seventy replies, only 5% felt that the withdrawal of the telephone service would cause major problems. 23% thought that there would be minor problems, whilst 72% thought that there would be no problems. Six people added a note expressing concern that there should be any suggestion of withdrawing what is seen as an essential emergency service.

Only 30% of those answering were prepared to express an opinion about the service offered by the mobile library, but it is possible that the service is unpublicized. Its need is emphasised by the fact that, of those over sixty years of age who answered the questionnaire, 32% used the service regularly, and for those over sixty-five years

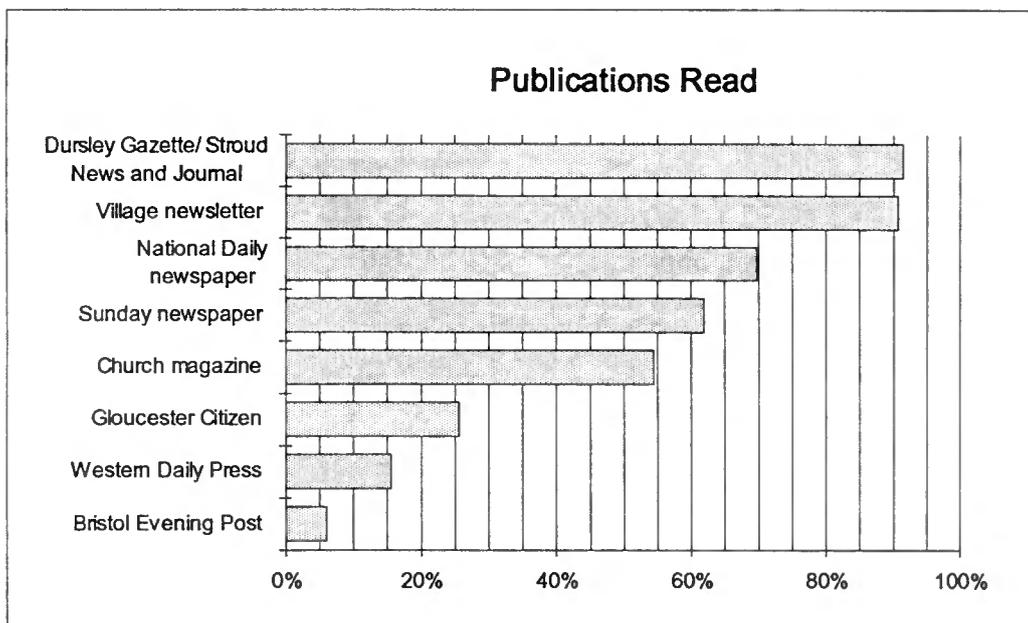
of age the figure rose to 45%. Dursley library was used regularly by 32% of the three hundred and forty-two people answering and ten other libraries were named in the response.



Jodie

A village newsletter, read by 91% of those answering, is distributed bimonthly by the Parish Council, but in spite of this only 28% of those replying thought that information about village activities was good. Forty-nine per cent thought the information reasonable.

The Bailey Group newspapers, either the Stroud News and Journal or the Dursley Gazette (carrying substantially the same amount of news) are read by 92% of those completing the survey. For an evening paper 26% look to Gloucester while only 6% look to Bristol.



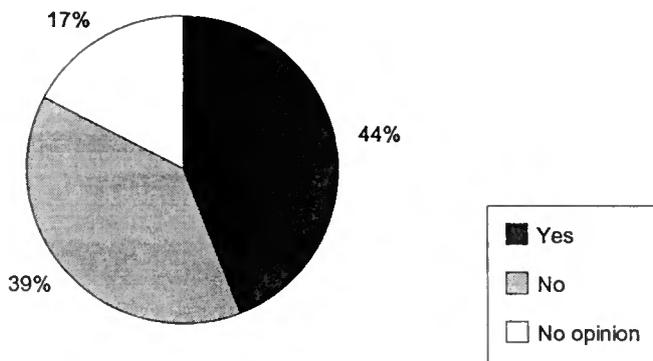
*mrs. Smith
Dinner lady*



Local Government

When asked whether they would be willing to pay slightly higher Parish levies in order to solve some of the problems and needs of the village, a majority of those expressing an opinion said that they would. However, nearly twenty per cent did not express an opinion. Many asked what were the problems and needs of the village. The answer to this, surely, lies in the response to other sections of the questionnaire.

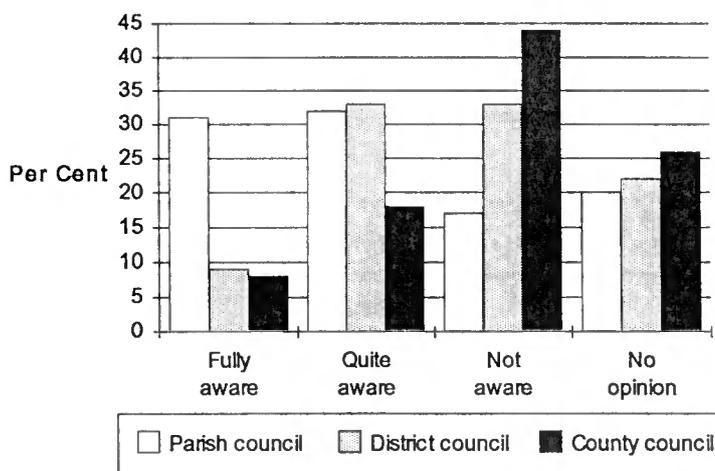
Percentage Who Would Pay Increased Parish Levies



It is encouraging that a large percentage feel that the Parish Council are either fully aware or quite aware of local needs. However,

the District and County authorities fared less well. Nearly half those who answered thought that the County was not aware of local needs. Given the possibility that more decision making could be devolved to the Parish Council, it is gratifying that they are recognised as having the best knowledge of local needs.

Awareness of Local Needs



On the question of local planning, only a handful were totally satisfied with the way planning works. An equal number were either quite satisfied or dissatisfied, whilst nearly one third expressed no opinion. This high proportion expressing no opinion probably reflects those who have had little or no contact with the effects of local planning decisions.

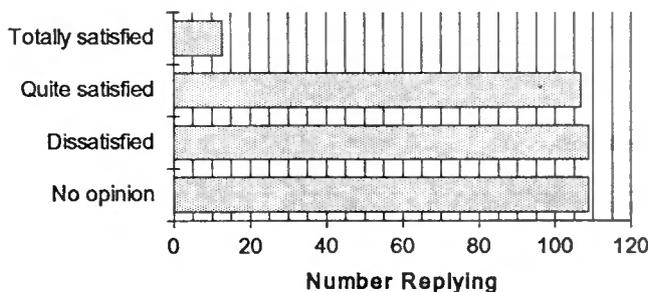
"What are the needs and problems of the Parish?"

"Not if it is for more bureaucratic idiots sitting in their ivory towers making useless decisions!"

Questionnaire comments



Satisfaction with Local Planning System





Coaley Enclosures occurred in 1875, and the Village Green was made into the garden of the Elms. The huge elm tree the other side of Pinnell's End Lane, and which gave the house its name, fell down in 1930. At the time of the Enclosures, allotments were created for the poor on the site of the Hamshill Council Houses. This was also the recreation field until 1900 when the present recreation Field, called Mallock Mead, was bought by the Parish.

A spring above Withywind sent piped water to Ham Farm, Silver Street and Trenley House. Springs at Spring Tynings watered the rest of the Parish. Trenches led the water through the village. In 1876 Josiah Castree built a tank at Spring Tynings which took water in iron pipes to eight pumps. The location of four of these are known - at Mrs. Hobbs the florist, Applegate, the school and at Coaley Mill.

On Thursday May 9 1889 at 7.30pm in the reading room - Coaley, a meeting was held to form the Parochial Committee for the Parish of Coaley. Early meetings were mostly concerned with the supply of water to the Parish.

In 1895 the Parochial Committee for the Parish of Coaley agreed that individuals should be allowed to tap the main water supply. The charge was to be two shillings per annum to those persons rated under £15 and four shillings per annum to those persons rated at more than £15.

In 1898, at a cost of £70 a second spring was

tapped to increase the supply.

It is recorded 'that Miss Cooper dipped all her water from the stream except on Monday which was the butcher's slaughter day.'

Elections in Coaley

In 1906 a torchlight procession was held and slogans daubed on the walls:

'Roll on Charlie Allan'

- the Liberal candidate

'Vote, vote, vote for Charlie Allan'



'Put old Fitch in the Ditch'

In 1952 the Tithe Rent charge or 'Queen Anne's Bounty' on the allotments at Pigeon House Corner was one shilling per annum.

In 1954 eleven street lights were installed at the cost of £46 16s per annum, to be lit from Sept 1st to April 30th from half an hour after sunset until 11pm.



Local Services

No police officer is stationed in the village. Coaley shares the services of an officer based in Uley, and it is this lack of police presence which has prompted a strong reaction from many of the three hundred and sixty-three residents who replied to the question of policing. Some of them commented that they had never seen a policeman in the village!

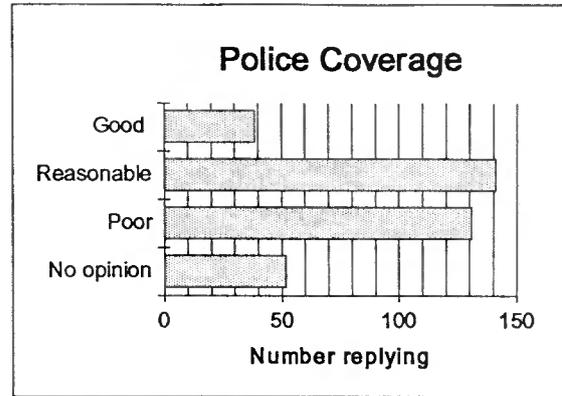
"When will the police learn that the interior of a car destroys contact with the public? In addition to which, they learn nothing of the area in which they tour."

Questionnaire comment

Local services are provided by Stroud District Council and Gloucestershire County Council. Unfortunately, of those who replied, some 48% thought that road maintenance was poor, 42% were unhappy with the provision of street lighting, 63% felt the provision of litter bins to be inadequate, while 60% were concerned about the level of parking facilities and 61% considered that maintenance of pavements was poor. More happily, an overwhelming 91% of respondents were pleased with their local refuse collectors, finding the service either good or reasonable.

At present only parts of the village are able to receive mains gas. Of those who do not, some 47% would like to be connected to the supply and of these nearly half would be willing to pay some contribution towards the cost of installation.

In keeping with their regard for the local dustmen, and perhaps reflecting their other 'green' concerns, an overwhelming 99% of respondents would be prepared to separate refuse items for recycling.

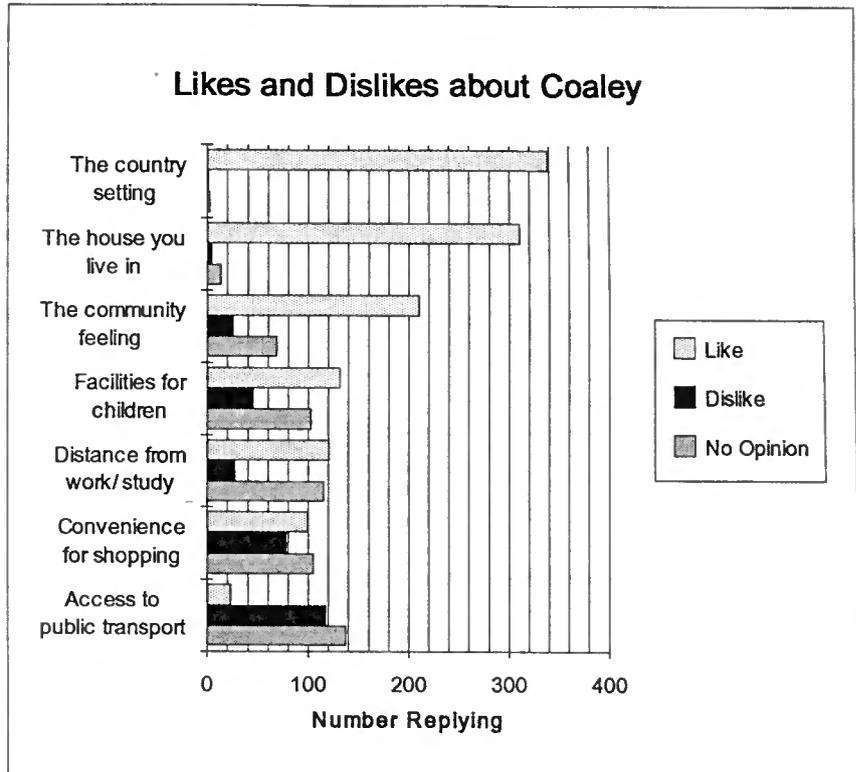


Local health services are based in Dursley, with other surgeries to be found in the neighbouring villages of Cam and Uley. The nearest hospitals are in Gloucester, Stroud and Berkeley. Apparently we are a comparatively healthy community, the majority of respondents found the social services they had used to be satisfactory (i.e. good or reasonable).

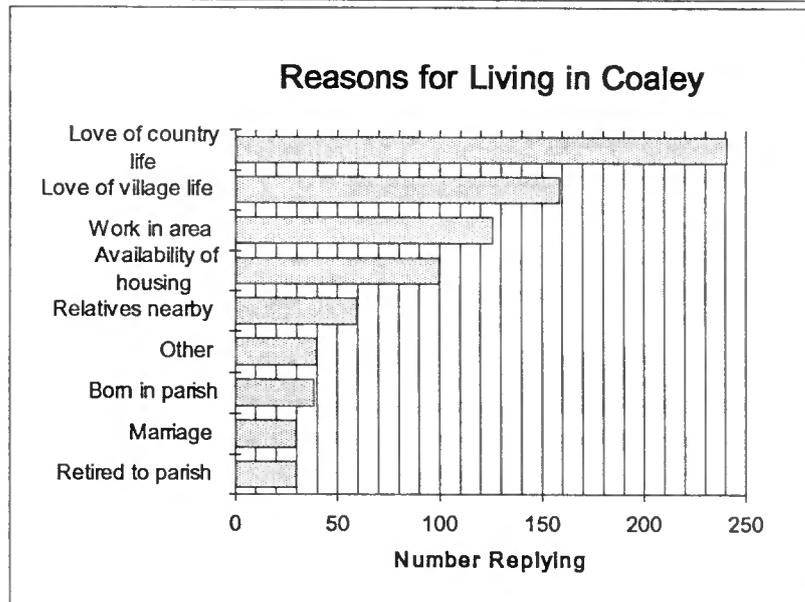
A Mr. Norton lived in a cottage beyond the stream at the far end of the recreation field. To prevent rheumatism he wore eelskin garters!

General

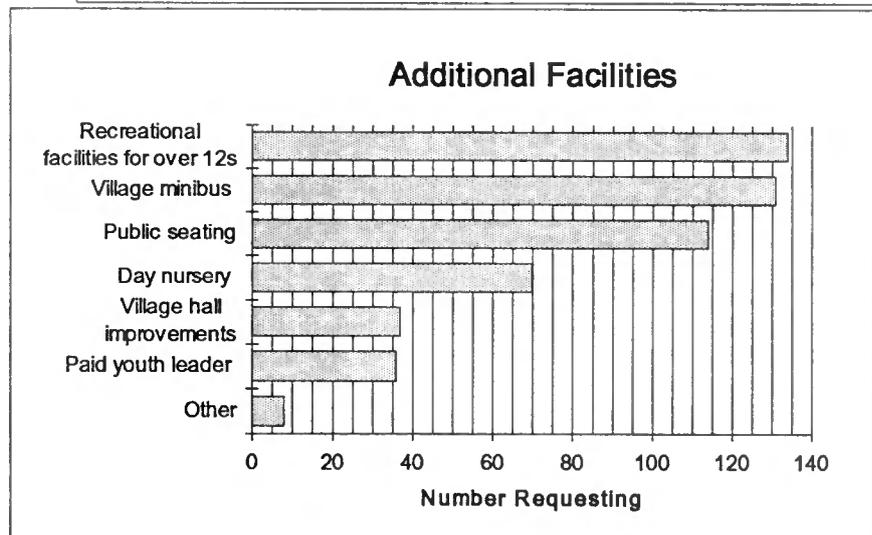
The main things people like about the village are the country setting, the house they live in and the community feeling. The main dislikes were the lack of access to public transport and the inconvenience for shopping. A large number of people expressed no opinion on those categories related to travel. This probably reflects the high number of car owners in the village, who would have few problems with transportation.



A large number of people chose to live in Coaley because of their love of village/country life, whilst just over a third came because of working in the area.



When asked what facilities were needed, the favourites were recreational facilities for the over twelves, a village minibus and public seating. Nearly a third wanted a day nursery.



Coaley Chronicles



The name of the village has developed over the years as can be seen by the following table:

Domesday Book	Covelage (of the de Covel family)
	Couelage
1278	Coueleye
1504	Cowley
1525	Colley
1639	Couley
	Couly Pike
1759	Coaley

COALEY (circa 1639)

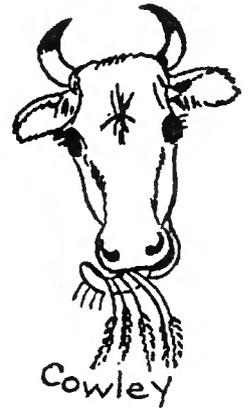
"Remarkable is a marle poole (marked on old maps on the south side of Pinnell's End Lane, two thirds of the way along and now filled in) in the field called Southworthy, durable memory of the old husbandry used for bettering of their arable lands, wholly neglected since the time of Henry VI and Edward IV, partly because of the civil war (the Wars of the Roses) at this time and also because of the enclosures. A pool now only useful for the infinite numbers of horse leeches it yearly produceth, used by physitions over the whole county and hence fetched in great abundance."

Mr. Bernard Prout (d 1980) recorded the name of the adjoining field as Horselease and said it belonged originally to St. Bartholomew's Hospital Gloucester. Horse leech... Horselease...?

Lease, leaze, lee or ley usually means fields or field and appears again in Buttlees, the original name for what is now The Forge. This house was built in a long orchard opposite the Churchyard (now also containing Lochinvar, Tara, Orchard End and Cooper's Croft) it may have been the field where the Archery Butts were set. It has also been suggested that Coaley was the Cow-ley of the Berkeley Estate!

To conclude the hospital saga, James de Covel gave the meadow of Willewood to St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Gloucester, in the reign of Henry III (1216-72), indicating a very early connection, perhaps associated with the dedication of the Church to Saint Bartholomew.

Queen Elizabeth I stayed at Frocester in 1574 and some of her retinue lodged at Garter Court. Kindles was part of the largest house in Garter Court and had a ballroom.



Cowley
Cowley
Cow-ley



The Forge



IS a parish in the hundred of Berkeley, six miles north-eastward from Berkeley, three north from Dursley, and twelve south from Gloucester. It lies under the north sides of Uley and Nimpsfield hills, and consists chiefly of good pasture land.

Cowley's-Pick is a sugar-loaf hill in this parish, whence there is an extensive prospect over the vale. A small brook runs from hence into the Severn, near Slimbridge.

The public roads here are the worst that can be conceived; and the poor labouring people are so abandoned to nastiness, that they throw every thing within a yard or two of their doors, where the filth makes a putrid stench, to the injury of their own health, and the annoyance of travellers, if any come among them. The better houses are gone to ruin, and there is not a gentleman resident in the parish; but this is not peculiar to Cowley.

BIG HOUSE

In 1704 there is a record of Can Hill (?Hall), across the fields opposite The Elms, as the home of the Browning family. They were 'a family of good account' who had bought the right to collect tithes in 1617. Memorials to members of the family were placed in the church but they left the parish in the 1770s - Rudder (1779) laments 'The better houses are gone to ruin, and there is not a gentleman resident in the parish'.

The Moors, on the right of Uley Lane, as you leave the village, has a very elegant facade but is only one room thick. Legend says a Countess lived there, a secret hideaway built by one of the Lords of Berkeley Castle. Later it was used as an isolation hospital.

THE VILLAGE POUND

This was situated between Laburnum Cottage and Betworthy Farm (there is a gateway on the opposite side of the road). All sheep and cattle found straying from their homes were taken there. Surrounded by a stone wall and still in use in 1900, an animal was only released when the owner had paid two pence to the person who had taken it to the pound.



CORONATION OAK

Now in the centre of the car park at the rear of the Village Hall, it was planted on the playing field to celebrate the Coronation of George V in 1911. When first planted it was surrounded by a fence which carried an inscribed plate.

1927	First Council Houses built at Westend.
1936	Severn View built.
1938-39	Council Houses built at Far Green.
1950	Betworthy Estate.
1967	The first houses of The Close.

The Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II was celebrated in 1977 with a bonfire on Coaley Peak, a special Church Service, a Dance and a Fashion Show. The Village Hall's Jubilee Room was declared open and there was a pageant, sports, and a tea for all the children, who were presented with Jubilee Mugs. A Jubilee Avenue of sycamore trees was planted along Lapley Road.



Summary



There is a frequently expressed desire to keep Coaley rural and many people are concerned lest there should be future development of large scale housing or of an industrial nature, which might alter the character of the village; though some would like more housing, suitable for first time buyers to help young families. Some views are conflicting:- there are those who would like the pavements to be repaired with new kerbstones and the hedges to be cut back for the convenience of walkers, others deplore any tidying up of the roadsides.

Many would like a proper bus service, especially the older inhabitants and those too young to drive, while the opening of Coaley Junction would be generally welcomed.

There is considerable concern about the lack of a speed limit through Coaley and some worries over damage to the narrower roads, caused by heavy vehicles and increasing traffic.

Many feel that Coaley is a friendly, peaceful, rural village, set in beautiful countryside and do not wish to see its character changed. There is appreciation of the Church, the School, the shop and the Post Office, of the village organisations and the functions held here.

"I am quite happy here - cow muck and all."

Questionnaire comment



Conclusions

This report gives a snapshot of Coaley in 1992, providing factual information on life in the village and its inhabitants. It was not the intention of the Committee to raise any contentious issue and as can be seen from the consensus view of the parishioners, very little change, if any, is sought.

The Committee hope that any matters of concern will be noted by the relevant authorities, and encouragement given to those wishing to establish new activities.

Acknowledgements

The Committee would like to place on record their gratitude to the following:-

Coaley Parish Council for their support and financial assistance;

Gloucestershire Rural Community Council for their practical help and support;

John Hobson for his tireless efforts at his computer keyboard, which produced the high quality copy of this appraisal;

Bill Bazett for his original sketches and cartoons;

Mary Penny and John Hobson for taking the photographs;

Alan and Pat Adamson for the wartime photograph of the Fox and Hounds;

Pupils and Staff of Coaley C of E Primary School for their self-portraits;

Mary Penny, Peter and Paddy Currin for their seemingly inexhaustible supply of historical snippets, sprinkled throughout the appraisal report.

The map on the front cover is produced from the 1989 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, c Crown copyright.

The map on the back cover is reproduced from Christopher Saxton's map of 1577.

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*Rural
Initiative Fund*



Administered by the Gloucestershire Rural Community Council
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USEFUL INFORMATION

Bakers who deliver in Coaley three times a week:

L F Dangerfield (Bakery) Ltd
 - agent N Gardiner 826333
 H Stokes 843273

Bus Services

- destination Dursley - Tuesday and Thursday - stops at The Old Swan (11.12am), the School, entrance to The Close, Hamshill and Far Green.
 Return from Dursley at 1.00pm

- shoppers service to Gloucester, via Coaley on Wednesday, leaving Coaley at 9.55am. Returns from Gloucester at 1.30pm

- further details from the Parish Clerk
 - Jos Johnson 548454

Church - Saint Bartholomew's

- Vicar: Rev. Ian Robb 542679

Services:

9.30am 1st Sunday each month Family Communion
 2nd, 3rd and 3th Sundays - Parish Communion
 10.30am Holy Communion - every Thursday

Coal Merchants

Dursley Coal Company 890797
 Glos. Co-op 542532

Coaley Peak - belongs to the National Trust and is leased by the Gloucestershire Trust for Nature Conservation. Contact Mrs M Penny 860262

Dentist (Cam) 542993
 Dentist (Dursley) 542109/542695
 Doctor's surgery (Cam) 548666
 Doctor's surgery (Dursley) 542277/542682/545981
 Doctor's surgery (Uley) 860459
 Dog Warden - Ebley Mill, Stroud 766321 ext 4491
 Health Visitor 542656
 Fish Van - calls Tuesdays
 Florist - W F Hobbs - Far Green 860284
 Milk and dairy produce
 J Prout 890373
 Far Green/Knapp Lane
 - contact Dairycrest 762351

Mobile Library - alternate Mondays

council houses, Coaley 2.20pm to 2.35pm
 Village Hall, Coaley 2.40pm to 3.20pm

Neighbourhood Watch

- Mr K Wibberley, 11 The Close 890449

Newsagents

daily deliveries - G R Gore 547955
 Bailey's News, Dursley
 Kayles, Cam (6.00am to 6.00pm - 7 days a week)

Parish Council - the Council normally meets on the first Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall annexe, details are posted in the notice boards. The Councillors are:

Mr J P Hobson - Chairman	Mrs F Randall
Mr E Lees - Vice chairman	Mrs C Purnell
Major Bazett	Mrs C Brisland
Mrs A Rendall	

The Parish Clerk is Mrs J Johnson,
 53 Cam Green 548454

The District Councillor is Mr N L Smith, Slimbridge Farm,
 Slimbridge 890214

Playgroups

Mrs. Chivers, 8 The Close 890497
 - Tuesday and Friday in the Village Hall.

The Village Playgroup (Mrs Rendall 890829,
 Ms Jackson 860413, Mrs Burak 860570) - Monday,
 Wednesday and Thursday in the Village Hall

Police 542386

Postal services

- deliveries mornings only
 - collections weekdays 9.00am and 4.30pm,
 Saturdays at 9.00am, Sundays at 1pm

Red Cross Organiser 890803

Refuse collection - Wednesday - bags to be outside by 7.30am

Sandpits Clinic 542656

Schools

Coaley C of E Primary 890358
 Headmaster - Mr. R South

Rednock Comprehensive 543618/543619
 Headmaster - Mr. J Pritchard

Snow Warden - Mr R Hunt 10 The Close 890476

Social activities

Annual Events:
 Church Summer Fête School Fête
 Produce Show Harvest Supper
 Christmas Bazaar Music Hall

Badminton - played in the Village Hall on various days

Bell ringing - held every Sunday at the Church at 9.00pm -
 practice every Tuesday at 7.30pm
 - Dr T C Chivers 890497.

Brownies - held every Monday in the Jubilee Room of the
 Village Hall at 6.30pm
 - Mrs D Randall 860728

Church Choir - practice every Thursday at the Church at
 7.00pm - Mrs D Manning 890279

Coaley Rovers Football Club - Mr W Harris 22 Betworthy

Friends of Coaley School - organises many social events -
 Chairman Mr R A Workman 548788

Friendship Club - for over 60s - held 2nd Tuesday in the
 month in the Village Hall at 2.30pm - contact Mr. H Joyner
 890491

Keep Fit Group - held every Thursday in the Village Hall at
 8pm - Mrs Tong 890292

Mother and Toddler Group - held every Monday in the Jubilee
 Room of the Village Hall - 2.00pm to 3.30pm - Mrs A Burak
 860570

Stepping Stones (Children's Church) - 6 to 11 year olds -
 every Wednesday during term time in the Jubilee Room of the
 Village Hall at 6pm

Wives Fellowship - held 1st Wednesday in the month at
 7.30pm in the Jubilee Room of the Village Hall

Women's Institute - held every 3rd Wednesday in the month
 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall 890671

Youth Group - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 7pm in the Village
 Hall

Telephones - there are two public phone boxes, one in the centre
 of the village and one at Hamshill - there is also a public
 phone in the Fox and Hounds

Veterinary Surgery (Dursley) 542092

Village Hall - Booking Clerk - Mrs J M Hibbs, 4 Betworthy
 890671

