

COLWALL VILLAGE SOCIETY

Newsletter

March 1998

Strong Support for a Colwall Village Society

As Clock readers will know, there was strong support for the formation of a Colwall Village Society at the well-attended meeting held in the Village Hall on 16th February. The Society will be open to everyone interested in Colwall - its past, present and future. It aims to protect and improve the village environment and to research and record its history.

A Founding Committee was formed, and until the Annual General Meeting they have allocated roles as follows:

Chairman: Susan Bond
Vice Chairman: David Ward (and lead officer on Environment)
Secretary: Carole Davies
Treasurer: Derek Turner (and lead officer on History)
Membership Secretary: Joyce Ingledew

First Annual General Meeting

The Founding Committee hope that as many people as possible will come along to the First AGM of the Society on Tuesday 14 April 1998 at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall. The formal business of the meeting will include electing officers and adopting a set of rules. After that, we are seeking to arrange a '**Wander Down Memory Lane in Colwall**'. A number of village people are being asked to share their memories of Colwall and there will be plenty of opportunities for everyone to ask questions and contribute their memories too.

The meeting is open to everyone and we hope that, as well as members and prospective members of the Society, all of you who are interested in the history of the village will come along.

History projects

Where do we start?! There are many source documents, pictures and narrative of Colwall's past held in the Colwall and Malvem libraries and in official archives, but equally importantly in private collections in family houses in the village. One project (and a rather long term one!) will be to review the detailed history of the village as recorded in the 1970's, which went from ancient times up to about 1660, to bring this up to the year 2000 as accurately as possible - and then to put the whole into a formal printed record.

A second project will be to properly store all records (original or copied), wherever available, and to aim to set up a Colwall archive in our own library. A third project might be to produce a similar radio programme to that recorded in 1950 based on the history and characters of the village.

We will shortly be holding a meeting of those who would like to take part to form a plan of campaign.

Village Spring Clean

Each year the Tidy Britain Campaign promotes an annual spring clean in communities. This is the kind of self-help project which the Colwall Village Society is keen to facilitate and we hope that as many villagers as possible will take part. Many of you will remember similar events in past years in Colwall, led by David Percy and Michael Lloyd.

It is not an onerous task, especially if there are many volunteers. The idea is to spend the morning of Saturday 21 March picking up litter throughout the village. Volunteers are asked to congregate behind the Park Hotel at 9.30 am armed with rubber or gardening gloves and a litter picker if you have one. Bags and tabards will be provided and arrangements will have been made for collection and removal of the rubbish collected.

If you can't take part on the day, it would be a tremendous help if you could tidy the frontage outside your own house. But we do hope to see you at the Park Hotel on Saturday 21st March at 9.30 am.

Village Design Statement

- can we influence planning?

The Countryside Commission has developed the idea of a 'Village Design Statement' as a way for the community to have an effective voice in local planning. It can be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance, and must then be considered in planning decisions. To find out more, three members of your Committee and two Parish Councillors attended an Information Day for villages in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

A Village Design Statement is produced by the community. It describes their view of the distinctive local character of the village, and the changes that would affect it - changes that might be made by developers, by individuals, local businesses, the Highway Authority.... A Village Design Statement is not about stopping development, but about how we think it should be carried out to ensure that it is in keeping with the local environment.

The Day was very interesting, and we all felt that it would be beneficial to have a Colwall Village Design Statement. We are starting a group to produce one, with the involvement of as many people as possible.

Hedgerows - gone

Many people have commented on the removal of the hedgerows along the A449 Ledbury road. Celia Beckham, the Hedgerow Co-ordinator of the local CPRE (Council for the Preservation of Rural England) has queried the situation with the MHDC. The hedges were removed to give a visibility 'splay' as part of the planning consent for access to the new agricultural store. A replacement hedge has to be planted behind the splay lines before the end of this planting season. The MHDC is also expecting a landscaping scheme for the storage building.

..... and some good news

There is a fine example of hedge-laying which has recently been carried out on Chase Road, about 200 yards below the junction with Jubilee Drive. Many thanks to all concerned for this splendid piece of work which has opened up the view and is there for us to admire.

First objects for the Colwall collection!

The Society has been given a Ballard token and a copy of the book 'Memories of a Clodhopper' by Ernest Ballard. The Ballard tokens were given by Ballard's on-site foremen to their pickers when the fruit they had gathered was weighed. Tokens could be exchanged for wages at the end of the day or week. We are very grateful to George Vines, a long standing Colwall resident, for these donations.

Diary of Events

21 March	Village Spring Clean - throughout the village commencing 9.30 am
14 April	First Annual General Meeting of the Society, Village Hall, commencing 7.30 pm
25 May	Rotary Club of Colwall Fun Day - display stand for the Society, Downs School

Railway embankments

Railtrack has recently hacked along the embankments through Colwall. The Parish Council has written to them to say that while we are pleased that Railtrack is maintaining the line, we feel that the results from the 'slash and burn' method are not in keeping with an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and we hope it will be followed up by further clearance and planting.

Telecomms mast

A fresh planning application has been submitted for a mast near Chances Pitch (a 15 metre 'monopole' with antennae mounted on top). The new proposed site is along a track near the junction of the A449 and the road to Colwall. The proposal will be considered by the Parish Council on 23rd March. The plans can be seen at MHDC Planning Services Department, Brunel House, Portland Road, Malvern and written representations made to them before the end of March.

A Footpaths Information Board given by Hereford and Worcester County Council will appear this month in Station Drive (by kind permission of the Park Hotel).

Charity Registration

Members of the Committee visited a Charity Commission Roadshow to clarify the possible registration of the Colwall Village Society as a charity at a future date.