

COLWALL VILLAGE SOCIETY

Newsletter

May 1998

History projects - getting started

All those interested in the history of Colwall are invited to the Jean Simon Room at the Village Hall on **Thursday 21 May at 7.30 pm**. We shall discuss people's interests and possible projects which could contribute to the long term aim of producing a village history up to the year 2000. We shall also consider how we can collect and keep information for a Colwall archive. We would particularly love to see more long-standing Colwall folk joining us for this exciting and interesting start to our historical project.

Hedgerow Survey Group

The hedgerow survey group started with an evening on the 23rd April when we heard a talk from Fiona Lickorish of the Herefordshire Nature Trust about the new hedgerow regulations and how to determine whether a hedge is likely to be covered by them. Then it was across the road from the village hall, to look at a hedge with Celia Beckham from the Herefordshire CPRE. Celia showed us how to fill in the CPRE hedgerow survey sheet for a hedge.

Several people have already volunteered to help record where hedges currently exist in Colwall. Nothing complicated to start with, just which fields have hedges. Meanwhile two of us went to Hereford Record Office to look at the Woolhope field name survey and Colwall tithe maps. A copy of the tithe map is on order, which should help us date which field boundaries (and hence most likely hedges) pre-date 1842.

For any one interested in what we are doing, please come along to [redacted] on **Wednesday 20 May** at 8.00 p.m. We will be looking at what people have done so far, and hopefully see how it ties up with the tithe map. It will also give us a chance to make sure that our efforts are spread evenly across the parish. Also I am hoping to arrange an evening walk and hedge survey using the CPRE hedgerow sheets, if people are interested. If you would like more information, please ring me, Liz Taylour [redacted].

First AGM - 'Memory Lane'

More than 40 people joined the Colwall Village Society at its first Annual General Meeting on April 14th. A set of Rules was adopted and a Committee elected for the coming year (see Information Sheet for full details).

After the business meeting we 'wandered down Memory Lane' with Elizabeth Lloyd, Tom Marsh, Ann Sealy, Paul Picton, Henry Horton and Barbara Eagles, talking about farming in the 1940s, life on The Hill, raising Michaelmas daisies, shops, garages, The Crown and the gas showroom. The reminiscences were recorded on digital audio tape by Don Taylour for the Society's archives. A copy on audio-cassette is available for members to borrow - contact Derek Turner to add your name to the list.

Village Spring Clean: A dozen people carried out a 'litter pick' in the centre of the village on March 21st. Two trailer loads of rubbish were removed.

Railway embankments: Three letters to Railtrack from the Parish Council, the last one 'written in fire on asbestos' have failed to elicit any response. Does anyone know someone who is 'somebody' in Railtrack?

Colwall Fun Day - Monday May 25 at The Downs School

The Society is having a stall at the Colwall Fun Day, and we have arranged for accompanying display stands from The Malvern Hills AONB and the Ledbury Group of the CPRE. We will have displays from all our current projects, including the hedgerow survey group, a local history display and the Village Design Statement. There will be an Ideas Board for the millennium and an opportunity to enrol as a member. And try your luck at finding the buried treasure. See you there!

Colwall and the Millennium

The Village Hall Committee has started Colwall off towards celebrating the Millennium by launching its 'Design a flag for Colwall' competition. Details are in the Clock and the closing date for entries is 1st August 1998. But what else shall we do? The Parish Council invites your suggestions. They have a small fund available which will be allowed to grow to about £2000, and could be used towards projects supported by the whole village, for the general benefit of the village. Two ideas suggested so far are to create a Millennium Garden on Walwyn Meadow, and to provide access for the disabled along one of the footpath routes.

There will be an Ideas Board on the Society's stand at the Colwall Fun Day for you to contribute your thoughts. If you can't get along on May 25, tell the Parish Clerk, the Chairman or any other member of the Parish Council of your idea - large or small. Inspiration is needed this year, if we are to meet the millennium dateline!

Telecomms mast: The planning application for a mast near Chances Pitch has been passed to Herefordshire Council by MHDC, and will be considered by the Planning Committee at their meeting on June 17th. It's not too late to send in your comments, particularly if you were able to see the dummy mobile mast that was put up. You can read more about the planning process and the Society's position in the separate information sheet, which gives the addresses to write to.

Malvern Hills Conservators commissioned the hedge-laying carried out on Chase Road in the spring. They have also installed a new seat around the chestnut tree at the junction of Old Church Road and Walwyn Road.

The spring at the top of Evendine Lane was reduced to a trickle earlier in the year. Numerous theories of climate change and environmental factors were put forward to account for this. A man from Gloucester frequently visits to collect water: frustrated by the poor flow he brought his drain rods and with them removed a blockage. The spring now runs freely once more.

A Village Design Statement - what is it?

It is a plan written by the community, for the community and its future generations which outlines how they wish their village to manage change. Many parishioners have been alarmed at the development that has taken place within the village over the last 50 years, and some of these developments have not been in harmony with a village environment. Other changes, large and small - changes to existing buildings, roads, open spaces, signs and 'street furniture', trees and hedgerows - all affect how our village looks. By developing a Village Design Statement we will be able to have our say on how the village deals with increasing pressures of development and change in the next 20 years.

To be truly influential, this document must cover the thoughts of the whole community, young and old, businesses, landowners and schools, so we need to involve as many people as possible. To start off, a public meeting is being held on **Thursday 4 June** at 7.30 pm at the Village Hall. Come and learn more, and see how a Village Design Statement will be an effective tool for developers and planners - *and* fun to produce. The Village Hall has also been booked for a follow-up day from 9.30 am - 3.30 pm on **Saturday 20 June**; lunch will be available at a probable cost of £4.

Diary of Events

20 May	Hedgerow Survey Group	'Beacon View', Mill Lane	8 pm
21 May	Local History Group	Jean Simon Room, Village Hall	7.30 pm
25 May	Colwall Fun Day - display stand	The Downs School	2 pm
4 June	Public meeting -Village Design Statement	Village Hall	7.30 pm
20 June	Colwall Village Design Day	Village Hall	9.30 am - 3.30 pm

The Colwall Village Society is open to everyone interested in the environment and history of Colwall, and the annual subscription is £5. If you would like to enrol as a member, please contact the Membership Secretary, Joyce Ingledew [REDACTED].
