
COLWALL VILLAGE SOCIETY

Newsletter

January 1999

Village Society Millennium Projects

Many thanks to all of you who returned your slip telling us about your priorities for the way in which the Society could mark the Millennium. Your votes have supported work on a Souvenir booklet about Colwall, a new Parish Map and a photograph album of Colwall in 2000AD.

Photograph Album

A small group is forming to compile a 'Colwall 2000' album, containing a set of pictures of the whole parish, houses and their occupants (if they are willing) - a sort of Domesday book for Colwall. More information in the next newsletter.

New Parish Map

An updated street map, useful to residents, new-comers and visitors alike. Designed to complement the Parish Footpaths Map, with a text highlighting new places of interest additional to the historic areas featured on the existing map.

'Colwall through the Millennia' - a Souvenir Booklet

Work has already started on designing and planning a booklet to provide a souvenir of the Village for Millennium Year - something to keep, to send to your friends (particularly ones who used to live here) and to show to your grandchildren. The target publication date is November this year, in time for Christmas and the launch of the Millennium national and local events programme.

The booklet will consist of a series of descriptions or 'word pictures' for each of the years 1000 BC, 0, 1000 AD and 2000 AD, with some filling in at 500-year intervals, and highlighting key situations, events and writings through the three millennia. Each 'picture' will be supported by high quality illustrations, photographic or drawn, the whole to be designed as a keepsake of a quality that will last through years to follow. It might also include a calendar sheet and space for you to add your own personal recollections and thoughts appropriate to the year.

If you have any queries or wish to make a contribution to any of these projects, please contact Joyce Ingledew [redacted] or David Ward [redacted] who can put you in touch with the appropriate Society members.

Next meeting

- Thursday 4 February

Our guest speaker at our next meeting will be Sue Hubbard, Head of Records at the Hereford Record Office, which was recently listed as a national centre of excellence for knowledgeable, helpful and friendly staff. This was certainly borne out when 15 of us visited Hereford in December and were entertained by Sue and archivist Arwyn Jones with a fascinating insight into the detailed workings of the office.

Sue and Arwyn had put out for us a display of documents relating to Colwall dating from c.1200 right through to the 1970's. We are hoping that Sue may be able to bring some of these to our meeting, and are very much looking forward to her talk - it should be both interesting and entertaining.

The meeting will start at 7.30 pm. Some of the work of the Village Design Statement team and the Hedgerow Survey Group will be on display. After Sue Hubbard's talk refreshments will be served giving an opportunity for looking at the displays and further informal talk.

Hedgerow Survey Group

I now have some acetates available for drawing maps, at 20p each. The next meeting of the group is at **8 pm on Wednesday 24th February** at [redacted].

I am interested in pushing back the known dates of field boundaries beyond 1840. So if anyone has any maps which show field boundaries or tracks before 1840 I would be interested in seeing them.

Liz Tylour

Village Design Statement

There was a very good response to the questionnaire circulated by the Village Design Statement team - thank you all for your returns. The initial findings, to the end of November, showed that 25% of respondents wanted the village to grow, while 75% did not. If further development were forced by government policy, then 83% would prefer to see this on 'brown field' sites and 10% on 'green field' sites. There were also interesting results on people's use of the shops and services in the village, and their reasons for coming to live here. The majority of the early responses were from older residents (average age 58), so in order to get the views of a wider range of people the team distributed further questionnaires to parents at Colwall School. We are planning to summarise the full results in the March issue of *The Colwall Clock*.

The team has 9 enthusiastic members who have been meeting regularly. Last summer they collected photographs of the village, and will be out and about shortly taking the same shots while there are no leaves on the trees. They have talked with members of the Fownhope Village Design team, and are developing close links with the relevant departments of Herefordshire Council who are most supportive.

In February the team will be meeting the Head of Local Plans for the Herefordshire Council to discuss the way the document should be written. The first draft is starting to take shape in four main sections - Settlement, Environment, Buildings and Economic factors - illustrated by line drawings of special Colwall features.

There will be a display of some of the work done so far at the Society's meeting on February 4th.

Re-typing of 'History' completed

Over the years, the copies of 'The History of Colwall' by Winifred Clay-Stringer in Colwall Library have become illegible. Derek Turner has been re-typing the text - a task which took him 'nine months with a magnifying glass'. Unfortunately there are a few lines on one or two pages that could not be reconstructed. However, the Library now has a newly printed and bound copy of this 'History', which was written in the 1950's as an entry in a national W.I. competition.

Many thanks to the Hereford and Worcester Library for the re-binding, and to Derek for carrying out this project, which kindled his interest in Colwall history and was one of the things which led to the forming of the Society.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 4 February	- General Meeting. Sue Hubbard, Hereford Record Office	7.30 pm, Village Hall
Wednesday 24 February	- Hedgerow Survey group	8 pm, Beacon View, Mill Lane
Saturday 10 April	- Village Spring Clean	Meet 9.30 am at the Station yard
Monday 26 April	- AGM followed by 'Charlie Ballard Nature Reserve'	7.30 pm, Village Hall

History Projects

Since the November newsletter Michael (Burke) and Derek (Turner) have formulated this 'Mission statement' which will hopefully be ratified by the committee in the near future.

'To produce a history of Colwall by carrying out a series of projects as listed and amended from time to time by the Society, within a time scale for each project set at its start. To have a catalogued archive of all Colwall's history, preferably held in an extended Colwall library.'

Unfortunately Derek has been laid low with a back problem since Christmas which has delayed the intended programme of personal contacts to be made in order to get work started on projects. However work is starting and, in particular, the Millennium Project 'Colwall through the Millennia' which we are hoping to use as a pilot scheme for raising grant aid to enable us to obtain some basic computer, word processing and printing equipment which will be available to serve those same needs of all our projects. The necessary fact-finding meetings start this week (21st January) and will no doubt take a few weeks to bear fruit.

Michael and Derek have now allocated all the projects between them to avoid duplication of effort and anybody involved with a project will receive the full list of projects and participants to ensure that any cross-referencing of subject matter is more easily achieved.

As always please contact Derek [redacted] or Michael [redacted] if you need any information or assistance.

Beyond the railway bridge - seen and wanted

A kingfisher was seen at the Charlie Ballard Nature Reserve over Christmas. In the Autumn there were seven moorhens, but they have gone, hopefully temporarily.

We shall be hearing more about this area - its history, flora, fauna and future after our AGM in April. In the meantime, Liz Tylour would be interested in *any information about previous uses of the site*. Any memories, photos or maps would be appreciated
[redacted]