
COLWALL VILLAGE SOCIETY

Newsletter

January 2000

Next meeting – Monday 31 January

The speaker at our next meeting will be Harry Green, past Chairman of the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust. Harry is a regular contributor to local and national radio on wildlife topics and a lively and knowledgeable speaker. He is the regional correspondent who covers Colwall for 'Garden Birdwatch' and he will be telling us about this survey of the birds that people see in their gardens.

There will be a chance to buy the Society's 'Colwall Quiz Sheet' and a copy of 'Colwall Collection – memories of a Herefordshire Village' by Stephen Ballard, both to benefit the Colwall Millennium Room Fund. Plus an update on the Society's projects and refreshments. Do come along if you can - **next Monday 31 January at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.**

Quiz Sheet Prize £20

- *While away the long evenings*
- *ransack your memory*
- *perhaps go for a stroll*

to find the answers to a variety of questions about Colwall in the

Colwall Village Society Quiz Sheet

On sale at the next meeting and from
John Goodwin, Estate Agent
Price £1

Profits to the Colwall Millennium Room Fund.

Gems from George Grundy

In 1988 Hereford and Worcester County Council ran a local history competition and George Grundy entered 32 pages of "Life around the Wyche Cutting - 1888 to 1988" for which he received a commendation from the judge, Mr David Whitehead. We now have a copy of this paper which, together with Winifred Clay-Stringer's "History of Colwall - 1850 to 1950" makes an excellent reference book start to many of our history projects, giving considerable insight into both factual and anecdotal history. Over the next few Newsletters we will reproduce parts of both documents for your enlightenment and amusement. George is in correspondence with Derek Turner from his retirement home in Somerton and is obviously keenly interested in helping the Village Society with his memories and memorabilia.

George's most recent letter encloses a couple of invoices from October 1913 for goods purchased from his family business, The Wyche Bakery, which had been purchased by his grandfather some 40 years earlier. You might be interested to know that in 1913 one pint of milk cost 1d (old penny), ½ lb of coffee 9d, 2 lbs sugar 5d and 15 lbs of cake 7s/6d!

An amusing rhyme at the foot of one of his letters reads:

My neighbour has a strawberry plot,
That's something that I haven't got:
Until today.
Two runners, I am pleased to tell,
Came through my fence and look quite well.
Hip, Hip, Hooray!

A hidden gem

David Ward

Unless you happen to work or have worked at Schweppes, and even if you have had other reasons to go on site, you may well be unaware of a beautiful little building to be found a few yards south of the office.

In 1892 the company decided to move to Colwall from the Holy Well extraction site at Malvern Wells, in order to take advantage of a larger site, one next to the railway station and, against increasing demand for bottled waters, to work before long even more closely with W & J Burrows whom Schweppes eventually took over in 1927.

When they moved it would seem that they wished to take with them some memento of the place with which they had been associated since 1850, some 40 years. Accordingly this little building, while not being an exact replica of the Holy Well premises, certainly very strongly displays its ancestry. It is quite unlike any other on the site, even those referred to in this article reprinted from *The Builder*, 30 January 1892.

NEW MINERAL-WATER WORKS at Colwall near Malvern, for J.Schweppe & Co., Limited. This building, which is now nearing completion, is being erected for the Directors of J. Schweppe & Co., Limited, for the manufacture of their mineral waters. It is placed at the foot of the Malvern Hills, close to the Great Western Line, and adjoins Colwall station, in the midst of some of the most beautiful scenery of the west of England, and considerable trouble has been taken to make the building harmonise with its setting, the usually more or less hideous 'factory' features having been so toned down and metamorphosed as to be quite unobjectionable. The building is of red local bricks, with Bath stone dressings, roofed with Brosely tiles; the internal paving is being carried out by Stuart's Granolithic Company; the ornamental ironwork by Messrs. Braun, of Birmingham; the cranes and hoists by Mr. Stannah; and the boilers, engine, &c., by the Riley Manufacturing Company, of Lambeth. The contractors for the whole are Messrs. Josh. Wood & Son, of Worcester. The architects are Messrs. Truefitt & Truefitt, of London.

Photographs have been taken of the two buildings for our records, for they are very much part of Colwall's history. Many Colwall people have been employed at the Works over the years and it is good to have in the village such a charming memento of so important an aspect of its economic life.

'Colwall through the Millennia' We are very grateful for a grant of £5000 which has been given by the National Lottery Millennium Festival 'Awards for All' towards the cost of producing this souvenir booklet. Our thanks are also due to Tim Gocher, formerly of Colwall, for his help with the graphic design. The work is progressing and will be going to the publishers soon.

Spring Clean We shall again be organising the *Annual Village Spring Clean* on Saturday April 15th as part of the national Tidy Britain Campaign (no, it's not sponsored by Cleanaway).

Charity registration Your Committee has been advised by the Charity Commissioners to apply to register the Society as a charity. This will require a few changes to our Rules. We hope to be able to present a revised constitution to members at the AGM.

Dates for your diary

31 January	'Garden Birdwatch' by Harry Green	7.30 pm at the Village Hall
15 April	Village Spring Clean	Meet 10 am at Station Drive
17 April	Annual General Meeting	7.30 pm at the Village Hall
