
COLWALL VILLAGE SOCIETY

Newsletter

June 2000

Tourism in Colwall

You may have attended the public meeting held in Colwall last November, at which the tourist facilities in the area were discussed. As the result of surveys and local public meetings, a Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Sustainable Tourism Strategy has been drafted by the Heart of England Tourist Board Development Division.

This draft report refers to the 'Tourism Product' and develops ideas to encourage more visitors to come to the area and to spend more money. The report also suggests changing visitors' habits by encouraging them to use public transport and not to visit the Malvern Hills ridge and 'honey-pot' areas. Is this a realistic aim?

These are only some of the points being addressed in the document. A summary is available – telephone [REDACTED] for a copy. The recommendations of the strategy will be presented at a meeting being organised by the AONB on **Monday 26 June at 7.30 pm** in the **Village Hall**. Do come along and put forward your view.

Millennium Memories

The final proofs (if not the final, final proofs!) of the souvenir booklet 'Colwall through the Millennia' are now being cleared with our printers. The booklet is a brightly illustrated, full colour set of word pictures outlining the main stages in the history of the village. With the help of a grant from the National Lottery Millennium Festival it will be distributed free to all Colwall households, and to members who live outside the parish.

The booklet will be too big to go through many letterboxes. We therefore envisage notifying every home of a date and time when someone from each household can pick up their own free copy from a venue in the village. There will be many people who will wish to purchase extra enveloped copies to send to relatives and friends out of the village (they would make a nice present) and these will be available at the same time, costing about £5.

There are two blank pages entitled 'Millennium Memories' for you to record events and impressions of the year 2000 so that you can personalise the souvenir. As we are now halfway through the year you may feel like starting to collect your impressions ready for when we finally get your copy to you!

History projects

Derek Turner

We were entertained by our three speakers at the AGM, who enlightened us on their findings on the Racecourse, The Purlieu and the Golf Course. We are very grateful to Nicholas Neve, Tom Marsh and Tony Sear for their endeavours. I am helping Tom to produce a booklet on the Purlieu and hope that Nicholas and Tony will be doing something similar in the near future. We shall now try to focus on another three or four topics over the next few months, so that we can produce more information at one of our next open meetings.

Millennium Yew

St James' Church planted a Millennium Yew in the Churchyard on Sunday 14th May 2000. It is a cutting from the Linton Yew, supplied by the Conservation Foundation as part of their 'Yews for the Millennium' Project.

Interested in sculpture?

Can you think of any public sculpture in Colwall – statues, monuments or sculpture outside buildings or elsewhere? Photographs and details are needed for a national recording project. Contact Susan Bond [REDACTED]

The history of Colwall Green

Carole Davis, our immediate past secretary, has completed her research into Colwall Green. She has produced five pages of manuscript which will be held in our archive. You might however like to know that, *inter alia*,

The earliest reference to the 'Colwall Green' that she found is on a map in Croft Castle, dated 1754.

The ownership over the years has been disputed between The Bishop of Hereford, Mr Henry Bright, Mr R W Raper of the Manor of Barton Court, Mr Nicholas Peyton and then Mr Reynold Peyton of Barton Court, The Colwall Parish Council, the Malvern Hills Conservators, The Elms School and at one time there was interference from the Grocers Company. All this was resolved by a Commons Commission in 1976 which, under section 8 of the Commons Registration Act, conferred ownership of Colwall Green to Colwall Parish Council. However it should not be forgotten that the Malvern Hills Conservators, at about this time, bought an area of land to the north west of the Green as an addition to the football pitch and presumably are still owners of this portion. The Conservators continue to manage Colwall Green on behalf of the Parish Council.

From the archives

Colwall: an attractive village beneath the beautiful Malvern Hills

This lyrical article by Sydney H Jones was printed in the Ledbury Reporter, 5 September 1958

'The church itself stands in a lovely atmosphere of tranquillity and rural beauty, surrounded as it is by stately trees, fields and distant hills, with an attractive farmhouse nearby.

An ancient cottage lies before it: a fine example of half-timbered building. I understand this was once one, or more, dwelling houses and was to be condemned, but thoughtful parishioners and the progressive Parochial Church Council raised sufficient funds to buy it and pay for renovations and restoration. It is now one of the proud possessions of the village and is looked after by the Church Cottage Committee, and much credit is due to all who made it possible to preserve it.

Near it are the Memorial Gardens. Here is an appropriate thank offering indeed. Kept in excellent condition by members of the Women's Institute, it exemplifies 'Peace'. I was told that the entrance gates are entirely the handiwork of local people: designed by Miss Bourdillon, the carpentry was done by Mr Norman, the ironwork by Mr Hales, and the copper plate was inscribed by Miss Ballard. That is something of which to be proud. With the cottage in the foreground and the church facing them, the gardens are a sheer delight.'

Since then, of course the 'Church Cottage' has been restored again, and is now known by its original name of the Church Ale House. During the latest restoration its history was published as a series of articles in The Colwall Clock.

The Women's Institute too has moved on. The W.I. now looks after the garden at the station, which they created in partnership with British Rail. They maintain it and keep the station platforms clean and tidy with a rota of volunteers. However, by their own admission, they're 'not getting any younger', and would like to find some new helpers. If you can offer some time to help with the gardening or the rota, please contact Connie Fairey [REDACTED].

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 19 September	Bird Survey Group	7.30 pm, Village Hall
Monday 25 September	Next Open Meeting with Guest Speaker Cora Weaver 'Spouts and fountains of the Malvern Hills'	7.30 pm, Village Hall
