
COLWALL VILLAGE SOCIETY

Newsletter

December 2000

Village Design Statement

The Colwall Village Design Statement (VDS) is now available in its final draft – a copy can be seen in the Library. On 21 October, the authors held a session when residents could come and convey their views on the various issues raised in the document. This was well attended throughout and many suggestions were passed on to the project team.

At its October meeting the Parish Council formally approved the Village Design Statement, and is writing a letter of support to the Forward Planning Department at Herefordshire Council. This letter, along with any others received, will be submitted with the final document to the Herefordshire Council who will be asked to adopt it as supplementary planning guidance. Herefordshire Council has the policy of only endorsing Village Design Statements – an endorsed document will be considered when planning issues are discussed, but does not have the status of supplementary planning guidance. The VDS team hopes that by submitting letters of support for the document, Herefordshire Council may be encouraged to change their policy in this case.

If you would like to see a copy of the Village Design Statement, and are unable to visit the library, do contact me [REDACTED] and I will try and pass on a copy to you.

Nicky Carless

Next meeting – Thursday 25 January 2001

The guest speaker at our next meeting will be Dr Johnny Birks of the Vincent Wildlife Trust. This is a charity which specialises in mammal conservation in Britain. It does a lot of work with mammals in the west of England such as polecats, pine martens and some of the rarer types of bat, and has recently moved to a new headquarters on the Eastnor Estate. Dr Birks will be telling us about 'Wild mammals around Colwall'.

There will also be an update on the Society's activities and refreshments will be served. Do come along if you can. The date to put in your diary is **Thursday 25 January at 7.30 pm** in the **Village Hall**.

Committee news

Ailene Hickman has regretfully resigned as Secretary owing to ill health. A token of our appreciation was given to Ailene at our meeting in September, with all our best wishes for the future. We welcome Lis Kirkness of Upper Colwall as our new Secretary and Graham Cowan who has been co-opted as an additional committee member.

Unitary Development Plan

Whilst the Village Design Statement deals with *how* change should take place, the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) being drafted by Herefordshire Council is concerned with *when* and *where*. The Parish Council's response to their initial consultation on potential housing development in Colwall can be seen in the library. Herefordshire is working towards a first 'Deposit Draft' of the UDP for public comment in Autumn 2001.

Telecomms mast refused

An application to replace the 15m mast near Chances Pitch with a 20m lattice multi-user mast holding antennae and microwave dishes was refused in September, as 'contrary to the objectives of conserving the natural beauty of the area; the detrimental impact on the landscape of the siting of a mast on the ridgeline outweighs the need to improve telecommunications facilities.' The Herefordshire planners would expect an approach from the companies for discussions if they wish to take the matter any further. In the last resort they have until March 2001 to appeal.

'Colwall through the Millennia' warmly received ...

'The team is to be congratulated on a magnificent job; ... could not let the remarkable presentation pass without a word of appreciation and thanks; ... write to say how much I enjoyed the delightful copy of the millennium book' – these are just a few of the many appreciative comments about the Society's millennium souvenir.

Over 1000 households in the parish have now accepted their free copy and the extra copies printed have been sold to fund the companion project – an A1 size Parish Pictorial Map.

Congratulations to Joyce Ingledew and David Ward for having the idea for this special millennium book and carrying it through in such a splendid way.

From the Archives

Joyce Ingledeu

'On April 4th 1419 Bishop Lacy manumitted (set free) his slave, John del Wode, who was a serf acting as cook in his kitchen on his estates in Colwall.'

It has been difficult to find out anything more about John de Wode – a reflection of the wide gaps in the social hierarchy of the time. However he must have been special for Bishop Lacy only released 6 serfs during his long years in office – 3 in Herefordshire and 3 in Exeter. Being set free would release John and his heirs from bondage and allow them to fend for themselves, live where they pleased and engage in trade – all great benefits. It is also worthy of note that he had a surname: surnames only came into use during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

In contrast quite a lot can be learnt about the Bishop. Edmund Lacy came from a Gloucestershire family and was Bishop of Hereford from 1417 – 1420. Having mixed with royalty whilst at Oxford thereafter he enjoyed royal patronage, being appointed 'Dean of the chapel within the household' or 'travelling chaplain' and going about with Henry Vth's household taking with him the 'jewels, vestments and other ornaments and goods needed for chapel services'. He accompanied the king to Agincourt in 1415. He left Hereford to become Bishop of Exeter, a post he held for 35 years until his death in 1455.

History projects – recording the results

With research completed on some of the history topics we are looking at the best way to record the results and to archive them, both as readable documents and on computer. Tom Marsh's history of properties and people in The Purlieu is being used as a pilot project for what may become a series of 'topic' booklets in A4 format, bound in a standard cover with a cutout to show the title. The plan is also to hold the topic reports (and in the future some of the archive documents) on computer so that the text can be easily searched, and to have a computer catalogue of all the items the Society holds. At the same time, the Colwall 2000 Domesday Book group is assembling a large computer collection of digital photographs and scanned images, and a first edition of a CD-ROM is being prepared.

Our archive storage boxes and the computer archives are at present held in private houses until we have a suitable place to make them publicly accessible - ideally in the Millennium Room extension to the library.

Archive contacts:

Documents and other items: Susan Bond [redacted] or Joyce Ingledeu [redacted]. Photographs, pictures etc. for computer archive: Graham Cowan [redacted]

Racecourse research goes national

The former racecourse featured in the Daily Mail recently when a reader wrote to ask what a red, blue and gold enamel badge inscribed '1933 Colwall Park Race Club' in his possession might be. Nicholas Neve recognised this at once because he has been loaned a similar badge by Mrs Ann Sealy. His reply identified the badge as one given to annual Members to wear to gain entry to the members' enclosure and also gave a brief history of racing at Colwall.

This triggered three further letters, including one from Mr Michael Page of Oxfordshire, whose great grandfather collaborated with Roland Cave-Brown-Cave in the design of Colwall Racecourse in the 1890s. The Page Cup was one of the season's prizes.

Frederick Page (1850–1909), was a Worcester resident well known in his capacity as a journalist and National Hunt official. Amongst some records that have emerged, it appears that Frederick 'saved the life of Alderman Stallard [an important Colwall resident of the time] from being run down by a train' and he was awarded an engraved silver cup in recognition.

Some photographs of the Colwall VJ celebrations in 1995 that were lent for scanning are now ready for return to their owner. If they are yours please contact Graham Cowan [redacted]

Colwall on the Internet

Do you surf the Web? Have a look at www.colwall.net for the beginnings of a Colwall Web page which already contains some interesting links and the Colwall Millennium photograph. If you would like to help in putting together a page for the Colwall Village Society please contact Susan Bond [redacted]

**Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year**