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# COLWALL VILLAGE SOCIETY

## Annual Review

April 2001

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### Chairman's Report

The highlight of this year has been the publication of the souvenir booklet 'Colwall through the Millennia'. It was compiled with great flair and imagination combined with attention to detail, and was extremely well received. Congratulations to all those involved, especially to Joyce Ingledew and David Ward for having the idea and seeing it through in such a splendid way.

The distribution of the booklet raised interest in the Society, and attracted several new members. Membership now stands at 139, with typically 60-70 people coming to our open meetings. This year we had two excellent speakers. In September, Cora Weaver described 'The Spouts and Fountains of the Malvern Hills', especially those in Colwall, and in January Dr Johnny Birks told us about 'Wild mammals around Colwall'. The subsequent question and answer sessions brought up many interesting snippets of information from both speakers and audience.

Once more we arranged a village 'Spring Clean', and had a display stand at the Horticultural Society Annual Show. Our continuing projects and activities are going well with members enthusiastically following up their particular interests. The Bird Survey Group set up as a result of the talk on birds given at our meeting in January 2000 now has an independent existence, with an organising committee led by Derek Turner and a full programme of activities.

In November our Secretary, Ailene Hickman, had regretfully to resign owing to ill health. We give her all our best wishes for the future. Lis Kirkness was co-opted as Secretary and Graham Cowan as an additional committee member. As it enters its fourth year the Society is thriving, due to the enthusiasm and commitment of its members. Thank you to the officers and committee for all their work during the year and to you all for supporting the Society.

**Susan Bond**

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### Village Design Statement

You will all be glad to know that this document is now complete. We have submitted it to the Forward Planning Department of the Herefordshire Council asking that it be adopted as supplementary planning guidance. However, present Herefordshire Council policy is to endorse Village Design Statements, which means that they have the lesser status of being taken as a material consideration in planning issues. We await Herefordshire Council's view on our request.

For the document to have been completed to such a high standard there are many people to thank. First the Design Statement Team who have worked well together, making our meetings a lot of fun. The odd bottle of wine has helped! I will not single out specific members of the

### Nicky Carless

team, but they have all given up a lot of their free time – I would just like to say Thank You. I would also like to thank Colwall Village Society, especially Susan Bond, whose encouragement has kept the whole process going. I hope that over the coming years Colwall residents will refer to the document when considering alterations to their property, changing boundary walls and garden features etc. Simple suggestions as highlighted in the Village Design Statement can make all the difference to an area's appearance. If the special visual character of Colwall – its landscape setting, the diversity of its buildings and the open quality of the settlement – is protected over the next ten years, then the Village Design Statement will have succeeded.

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## **'Colwall through the Millennia'**

**Joyce Ingledeu**

In September the Society went into print for the first time when, with generous help from the National Lottery 'Awards for All', a millennium souvenir booklet was published. Fully illustrated and in colour it contained brief glimpses of the Colwall community through time, and included a map of the parish in 1842. A free copy was available to every household in the village and members of the Society who live outside the parish. More than 1000 copies were distributed. Extra copies were sold; the proceeds will be used to fund the production of a Parish Pictorial Map.

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## **Archive group**

**Susan Bond**

We are building up an interesting collection of items about Colwall in two forms – in the 'material' archive of documents, photos, press cuttings and objects that have been given to us, and as a digital archive on computer (see below). All the donated items have now been carefully put into separate numbered folders and recorded in the Accessions Register by Rod Lovgreen and Joyce Ingledeu. The next steps will be to catalogue the items and index the Register on computer.

The archive storage boxes are now held securely in the library. If you would like to look at any item please contact Susan Bond or Joyce Ingledeu in the first instance. We are always pleased to receive gifts of further items at any time.

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## **Colwall 2000 Domesday Project**

**Graham Cowan**

The project continues to progress slowly with the ever increasing accumulation of data and images converted into digital format. We still welcome photographs or information relating to the village or its inhabitants past, or present, for inclusion in the record. Our library has been able to provide all the images for the Colwall Village Design Statement.

We will be giving a presentation entitled 'Colwall Now and Then' after the society's AGM showing some of our results.

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## **History projects**

**Derek Turner**

A group of project leaders met recently to review progress over the last twelve months and the summary of our efforts is as follows: -

The history of *Colwall Green* has been researched by Carole Davies. A copy of her paper is held in our archive and on computer.

*The Purlieu – Property and People* has been researched and written by Tom Marsh and is now nearing completion of its printing. It makes very interesting reading and should be in the library as a finished booklet within a few weeks.

*The Colwall Racecourse* has been researched by a team led by Nicholas Neve and is also nearing completion, as is *The Colwall Golf Course*, researched and written by Tony and Catherine Sear.

'*The Purlieu*' is being produced as the first of a series of A4 size 'Topic Booklets'. We have decided on the standard format of the presentation cover and title page, but the individual contents of each booklet will be the preserve of the author. We hope to produce two or three booklets a year from now on.

There are still about 80 topics on the list, of which the following are actively being progressed: the James Building Firm and family; the Allen family; the Ladies Club; the Girl Guides; the Woolhope Club papers; Educational establishments in the village; Public Houses; the Village Hall; Evendine Property and People; Railways and other modes of transport.

Anyone interested in helping who is not yet involved should please contact Derek Turner or Michael Burke to register their interest. They will receive the available guidelines and names of all other interested parties so that relevant information can be exchanged.

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## **Hedgerow survey group**

**Liz Taylour**

We now have the results of the survey drawn onto one piece of acetate, so that we have a reference point for the hedgerows in Colwall at the turn of the millennium. Owing to family illness it was not possible to start the planned tree survey; we now hope to start this summer.

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## **Colwall Village Society Committee 2000/2001**

**Chairman:** Susan Bond  
**Vice-Chairman:** David Ward  
**Secretary (co-opted):** Lis Kirkness  
**Treasurer:** Derek Turner  
**Membership Secretary:** Joyce Ingledeu

**Committee Members:**  
Nicky Carless Village Design Statement  
Michael Burke History projects  
Graham Cowan Colwall 2000 Domesday  
Liz Taylour Hedgerow Survey Group

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